

Update On Jimmy Snak

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# THE Wrestler

**Paul Ellering's  
Shocking Statement**

**"THE ROAD WARRIORS  
CAN'T BEAT THE  
MIDNIGHT EXPRESS!"**



**The Freebirds-  
Bruiser Brody War:**

**A SPECIAL REPORT  
BY KERRY VON ERICH**

**Hacksaw Duggan  
Defeats Dick Slater:**

**THE PRIDE OF NORTH  
AMERICA IS NOW PROUD  
OF HIMSELF!**

**Q & A:  
KENDALL WINDHAM**

**The Empire Strikes Back:**

**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS WIN  
THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE!**





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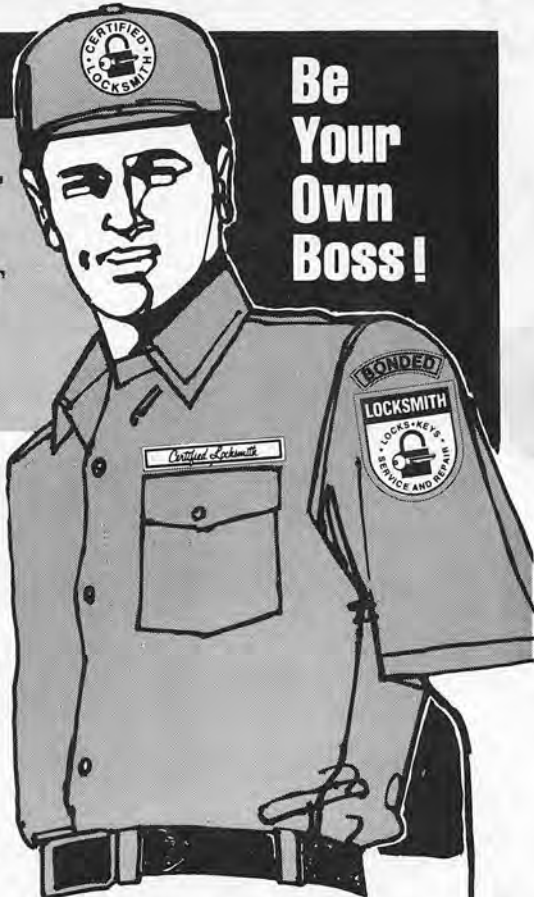
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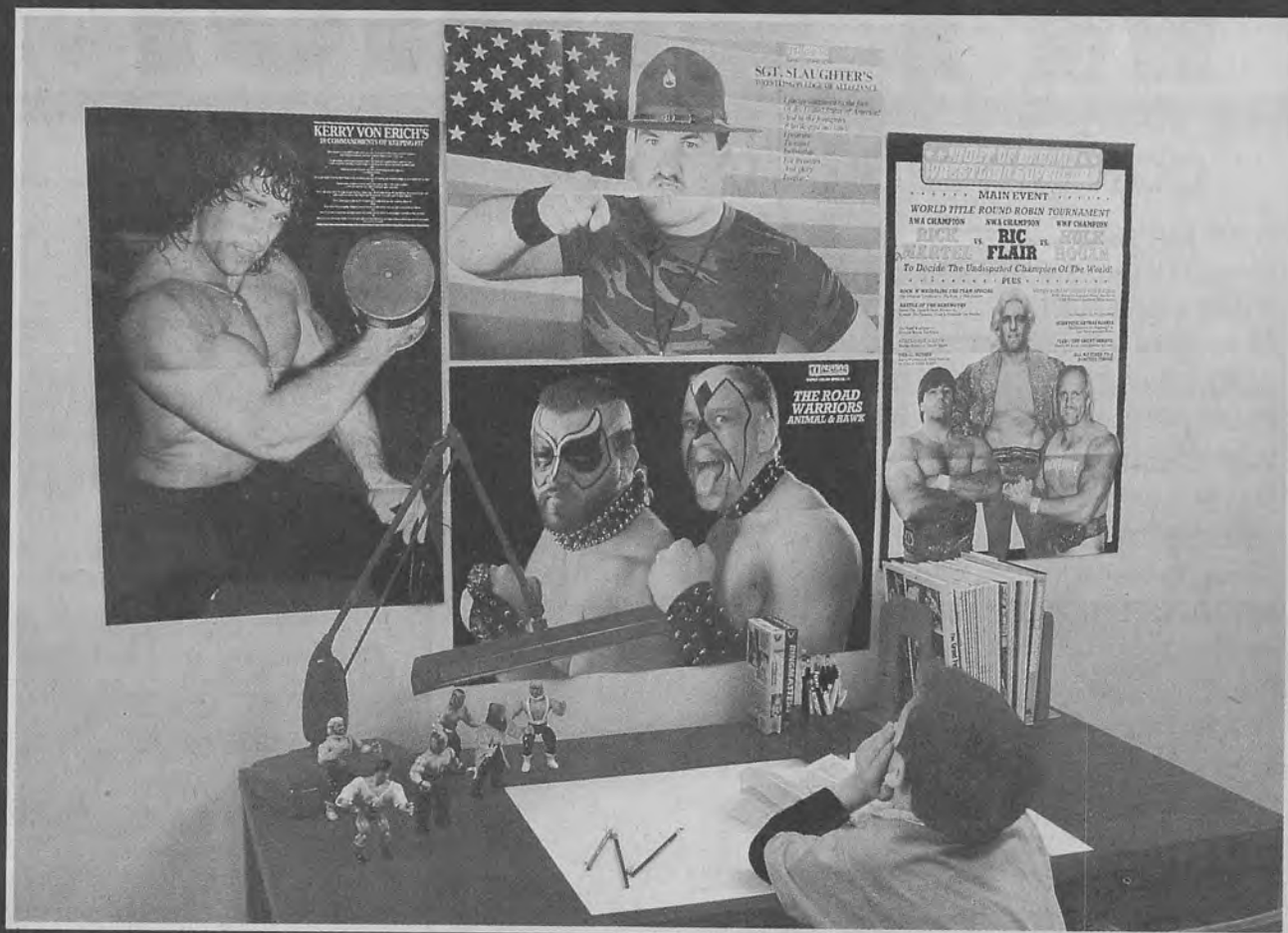
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# THE Wrestler

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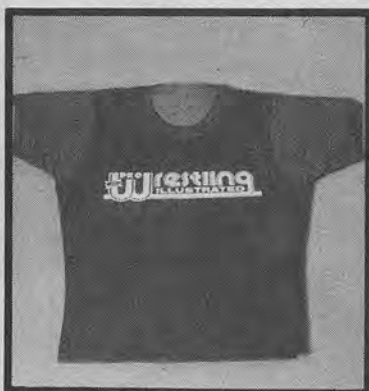
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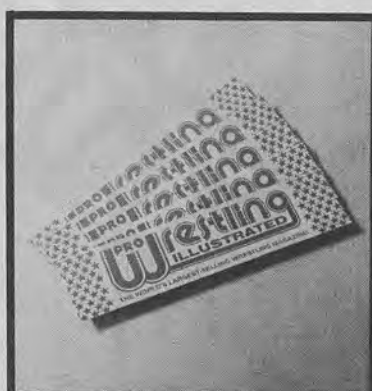
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# YOUR LETTERS

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Wendi Richter is photographed while on safari in Africa before beginning her comeback in Puerto Rico. Adam Johnson feels Wendi is integral to the success of women's wrestling.

## FOLLOWS THE SHEEPS

An open letter to The Shepherders:

Before I ever saw you guys wrestle I loved the name. Shepherders—it sounds funny. Now you are my favorite tag team. I like the way you move, wrestle, talk, and salute your flag. I was very disappointed when you lost the UWF tag team championship to The Fantastics.

I can't stand them. They always take up time by playing their music and kissing all the women and girls. The other tag teams just come to the ring. The UWF really wanted its tag team title to be held by Americans. The referee should have disqualified Tommy Rogers for jumping off the top rope. If a rulebreaker like Buzz Sawyer had done that, he would have immediately been disqualified. The UWF has gone too far now. I'm not Anti-American; I just like The Shepherders.

BRADFORD MONTGOMERY  
Jayess, MS

## WENDI IS NEEDED

I've been a great fan of Wendi Richter for many years, and naturally was most disturbed to learn she is contemplating retiring from the sport. What the WWF has done to Wendi is deplorable, to say the least. Wendi Richter is indeed the best woman wrestler in the world, and she will, if given the opportunity, reclaim what is rightfully hers.

Her many fans must be hoping she will be patient and not do anything rash, for the wonderful sport of wrestling would be poorer without her, and so, too, her adoring fans.

ADAM JOHNSON  
Barbados, West Indies

*[Editor's note: Wendi Richter has resumed her career and is feuding with Sasha in Puerto Rico. She has no plans to return to the WWF.]*

## FAMILY FEUD: A MYTH

I wish you guys would stop trying  
(Continued on page 48)



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

**T**HE FIRST ANNUAL **Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup** tag team tournament is history, and **The Road Warriors** emerged victorious in the final round over **Magnum T.A.** and **Ronnie Garvin** to capture the cup and a check for \$1 million.

Twenty-four tag teams, some from as far away as Japan, were entered in the tournament, which was held over two sessions in The Superdome in New Orleans. In the final-round match, **Animal** pinned Garvin following "Hands of Stone's" attempt to punch **Hawk** in the head with his injured right hand. Hawk tagged off to his partner, who clotheslined Garvin for the pin at 9:53.

"This victory is simply one more diamond in the crown jewel that is The Legion of Doom," said the Warriors' manager **Paul Ellering**. "I just want to say that I have been examining several important investment opportunities over the past months in anticipation of this glorious achievement, and \$1 million is going to go a long way toward making the Legion solvent and powerful well into the next century."

In addition to the 20 tag team matches in the tournament, two



The format of the the Crockett Cup tournament made for some very unique matchups. The Road Warriors vs. Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin—the four are considered friends in the World Championship area—was the tourney's final bout. Animal drives a boot into T.A.'s back.

singles matches were held: **Hacksaw Jim Duggan** successfully defended his North American title in 9:10 over **Dick Slater**, and NWA World champion **Ric Flair** turned back another challenge from **Dusty Rhodes** at the 20:13 mark.

**The Fabulous Freebirds**, fresh from a violent feud with the **Von Erichs** in the World Class area, have been signed to a long-term contract to wrestle in the UWF

area. "Our deal is exclusive to the UWF," reports **Michael Hayes**, "and I'm proud to say that we 'Birds have become the highest-paid athletes in UWF history. And let me say this: After the beating we gave those pathetic little Von Erichs over in Texas, **The Fantastics** and the UWF tag team belts will be a piece of cake. Tag team wrestling in this area has been

(Continued on page 54)

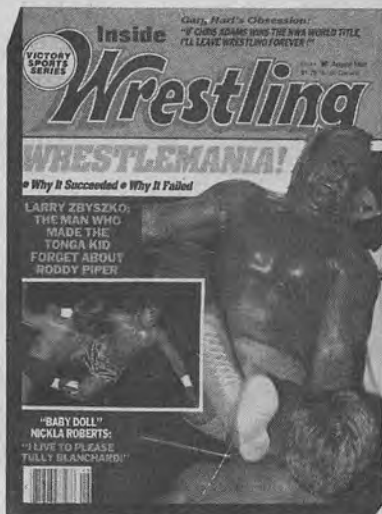


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Dusty Rhodes scored a pinfall victory over Ric Flair, but the pin was ruled invalid since Dusty had previously thrown the NWA champion over the top rope and drawn an automatic disqualification. Once again, Dusty was deprived of the NWA title.

**Baltimore, MD (Correspondent—K.P. Physioc):** In a controversial match at the Baltimore Civic Center, Ric Flair and Dusty Rhodes battled it out for the NWA World title. The bout was officiated by two referees, but that didn't stop Flair and Rhodes from wreaking havoc in the ring.

Rhodes started off by taunting Flair, then hit the champion with a series of elbows that brought Flair to his knees. But Flair quickly recovered and landed a series of blows of his own. Rhodes, however, turned the tables on the champion and appeared to have the match nailed down when he applied a figure-four leglock.

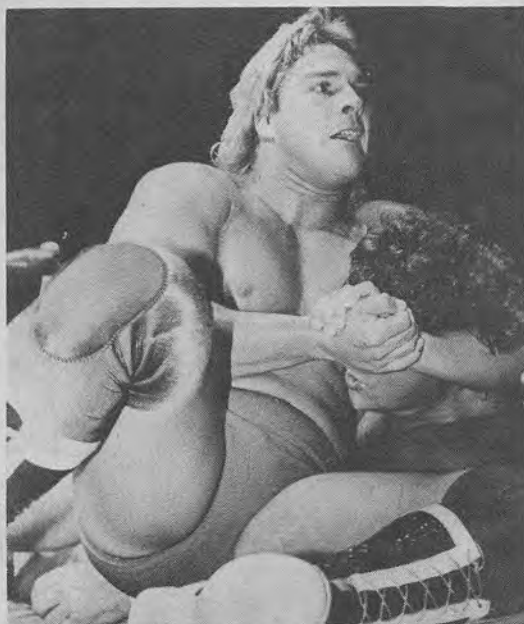
Flair broke the hold and the two

went at it in the center of the ring. Enraged, Rhodes tossed Flair over the top rope, knocking out both referees. "The American Dream" appeared to have the match won when he made a pin attempt as one of the refs, still woozy, climbed back into the ring and counted out Flair. The Civic Center fans erupted but were quickly silenced when the other referee disqualified Rhodes for throwing Flair over the top rope.

In other bouts: Kahlua defeated Tom Brandy ... Jimmy Valiant beat Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin by disqualification ... Hated rivals Tully Blanchard and Magnum T.A. wrestled to a draw ... The Midnight Express defeated The Rock

'n' Roll Express by disqualification ... The Koloffs defeated Precious Paul Ellering and Road Warrior Animal.

**Lafayette, LA (Correspondent—Veto Graffeo):** The Universal Wrestling Federation came to the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium,



A similar occurrence, in Louisiana, worked out in favor of the fan favorite when Terry Taylor, on the verge of being pinned by Dick Slater, was awarded the victory when referee Tommy Gilbert, injured in the melee, was informed that Slater had thrown Taylor over the top rope.

where a large, enthusiastic crowd saw Terry Taylor take on former North American Champion Dick Slater.

Referee Tommy Gilbert was forced to restore order early when both wrestlers exchanged closed-

(Continued on page 56)

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**Q:** "My question is for Ric Flair. How do you feel about the recent decision by the World Class Wrestling Association to break away from the NWA and eliminate the disqualification rule?"—Wayne Jones, Morrisville, VT

**A:** "It really doesn't make any difference to me," Flair replied. "I'm the best wrestler in the world and I've proven it a million times. The disqualification rule has nothing to do with me



Now that World Class has withdrawn from the NWA, Ric Flair will probably not wrestle Kerry Von Erich anymore. Flair says he is not upset about the World Class' decision, however.

because I never get disqualified on purpose. The other wrestlers are always trying to get me disqualified because they know that they can't beat me. As for the Von Erichs, they know where I am and if they want me, they can come and get me. I have the only belt that counts. The NWA World title strap!"

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for Stan Hansen: At the present time, would you get more satisfaction out of breaking Sgt. Slaughter's neck or that little geek Greg Gagne's neck?"—Scott Hisley, Baltimore

**A:** "That's a tough question,

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Scott," Hansen replied, "but one that deserves an answer. I think I'll have to go with that moron Slaughter. It appears to me that his head and body are not very well connected, so his neck would be pretty easy to break. Not only that, but I heard that he had a chance to go on the Americans' mission to bomb Libya but chickened out. So that proves that Slaughter is all talk, as I've always suspected. Yeah, I think I'd get some satisfaction out of tearing his face off. And by the way, you're a pretty smart guy. Greg Gagne is a little geek."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "This question is for Dusty Rhodes. For all the time that Baby Doll spent with Tully Blanchard, how can you take her as your valet? I saw matches with you and Blanchard, and because of Baby Doll you got fire thrown in your face, hit with foreign objects, Pearl Harbored, and she cost you so many titles. After all that, how can you become her friend?"—Jonathan Morgenstern, Brooklyn, NY



Before joining forces, Baby Doll and Dusty Rhodes stare each other down. Dusty, who early in his career was a feared rulebreaker, feels Baby Doll has changed, and will not hold her past against her.

**A:** "First of all, she's not my valet, she's my personal," Dusty explained. "And second, this former Jezebel has changed her ways. She's not the same person she used to be. People change, you must understand, Jonathan. Baby Doll has righted her wrongs, straightened out her act. She fairly wretches at the mere mention of Blanchard. She is totally devoted to me, baby, and that's all that matters."

\*\*\*

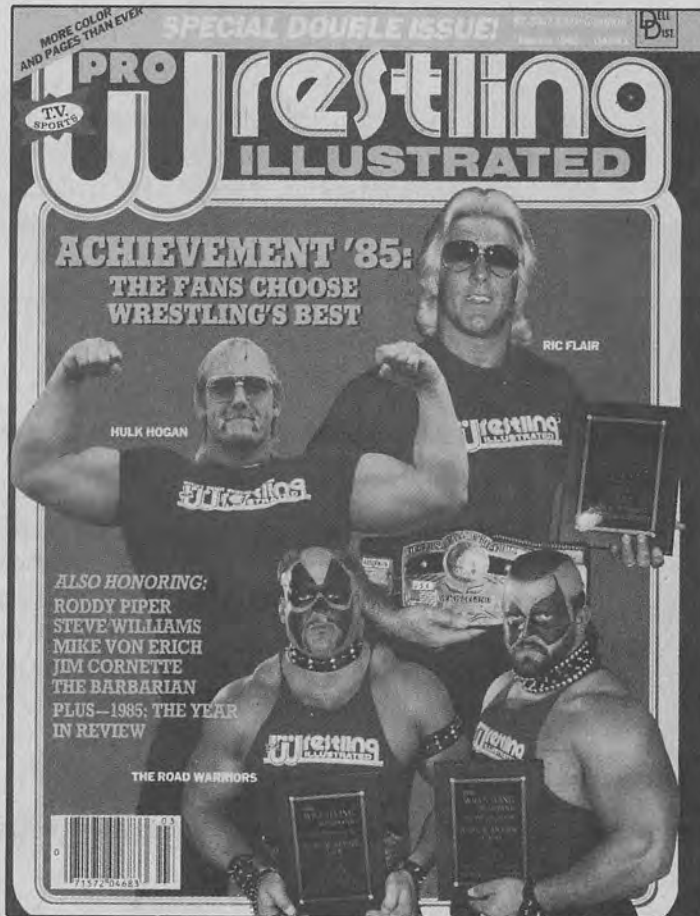
**Q:** "My question is for the Kiwi Shepherders, if they can come up with an answer. Why don't you two animals go back to New Zealand and play with your sheep? It would be very natural. You idiots look like sheep and act like sheep."—Judy Ready, Syracuse, NY

**A:** "Sheep? We look like sheep?," Crazy Luke Williams replied. "Thank you very much. In my country, it is compliment to be compared to a sheep. You Americans may have some brain after all. We like to play with sheep. Me and my brother Butch learned to wrestle with sheep."

(Continued on page 52)



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# Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



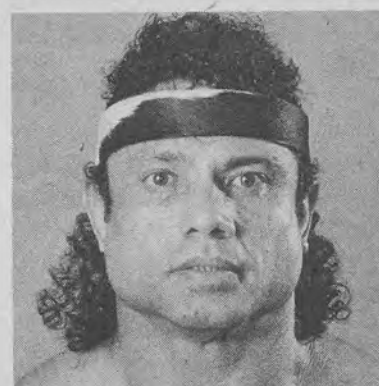
*Thumbs Up* to Precious Paul Ellering. Ellering steered the Legion of Doom to its largest payday ever—\$1 million—by virtue of their stunning victory in the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup. Ellering formulated an ingenious strategy designed to maximize The Road Warriors' great strength and stamina. Animal and Hawk stuck closely to the game plan in running roughshod over the teams of Wahoo McDaniel and Jay Youngblood, The Midnight Express, and Ronnie Garvin and Magnum T.A.



*Thumbs Up* to The Junkyard Dog. Remember just before WrestleMania 2 when Piper embarrassed the Haiti Kid, shaving his head on national television? Fan favorites in the arena were harshly criticized for failing to rush to the aid of the helpless midjet. Alone, there would be no way for the Kid to gain revenge. Well, Junkyard Dog is determined to restore his little friend's pride. He has enlisted the aid of Rick Steamboat, and the two have vowed not to stop until the Kid is standing tall again.



*Thumbs Up* to Chris Adams. He's already been one of the most hated competitors the sport has ever known. One minute he's blind and the next minute his former tag team partner is found dead in his apartment. Give Chris Adams credit. Throughout the series of traumas, he never once lost his resolve. And now, despite having regained only 65 percent of his vision, Adams is attempting a comeback. He wrestled Steve Regal to a 15-minute draw in his return match and gave every indication that he is back for good.



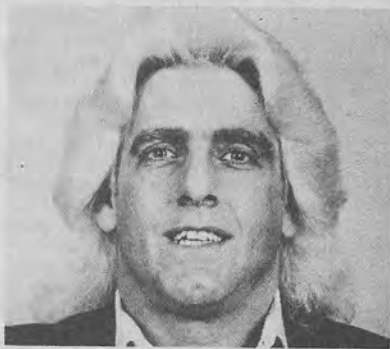
*Thumbs Up* to "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka. Look, up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the return of the Superfly to our shores, and a welcome sight it is. American rings sorely missed Snuka's spectacular presence. His drawing power was evident by his appearance at the AWA's recent WrestleRock card. While the 22,000 plus fans didn't come to see Snuka exclusively, his presence no doubt contributed to the large, enthusiastic turnout.



# Thumbs Down



*Thumbs Down* to Jim Cornette. Fans tuning into NWA action recently witnessed one of the most abominable events in the sport's notorious history: Cornette and The Midnight Express had Dusty Rhodes triple-teamed. Baby Doll attempted a brave but foolish rescue. As Rhodes watched in helpless horror, Baby Doll was attacked by Bobby Eaton, who held her while Cornette jammed his tennis racket into her abdomen. The amount of damage to Baby Doll is yet to be ascertained, but even if the injuries prove to be superficial, Cornette is a marked man. We expect The American Dream to retaliate with utter ruthlessness.



*Thumbs Down* to Ric Flair. Has someone spiked the NWA watercooler with nasty-pills? Champion Ric Flair spearheaded a Pearl Harbor-style attack on Rick Morton *in the dressing room*, mercilessly beating the young rock 'n' roller into unconsciousness. The stylish title reign of Ric Flair is definitely over. The infamous bounties, the unprovoked attack on Dusty Rhodes, and this latest incident may forever tarnish what history otherwise would have recorded as one of the sport's great championship eras.



*Thumbs Down* to Jesse Barr. Barr's credibility as a professional was severely diminished by his latest antics. To attract the attention of Southern champion Lex Luger, Barr disguised himself as a woman and burst into the ring brandishing a concrete-filled pocketbook. We think his interests would have been better served by challenging Luger through more traditional means, not in the asinine way he chose.



*Thumbs Down* to Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. This Middle Eastern mound of camel dung has encouraged terrorist attacks on Americans living abroad for years. Now that these attacks have become horrifying realities, Al-Kaissie continues the sickening cheerleads. We implore American wrestling promoters to think twice before allowing this man—a man whose grin widens with each American casualty—to work. Let him return to the warring playgrounds of his homeland and see if he likes living amidst the smokey desolation. □

# BACK ISSUES OF

## Inside Wrestling

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**AUGUST 1984**

**August 1984**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

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**September 1985**/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

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**November 1985**/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

**December 1985**/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

**January 1986**/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, The Road Warriors.

**February 1986**/Stories include: Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Road Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

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**June 1980/Stories include:** Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

**August 1980/Stories include:** Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

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**August 1982/Stories include:** Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

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## OCTOBER 1982

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**December 1982/Stories include:** Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

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**December 1983/Stories include:** Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

**January 1984/Stories include:** Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

**March 1984/Stories include:** Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

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**August 1984/Stories include:** Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

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**October 1984/Stories include:** Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

**November 1984/Stories include:** Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

**December 1984/Stories include:** Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

**January 1985/Stories include:** Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

**February 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

**March 1985/Stories include:** Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

**April 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

**May 1985/Stories include:** Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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**April 1986/Stories include:** Kevin Von Erich, Rude, Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

**May 1986/Stories include:** Larry Zbyszko, Von Erich Family, Santana-Ventura, The Hillbillies.

**June 1986/Stories include:** Lex Luger, Gino Hernandez, Flair vs. Bockwinkel, Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A.

**July 1986/Stories include:** King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

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# INTRODUCING THE M.O.D. SQUAD

**A**FTER DROPPING OUT of 14 colleges and failing in 12 business ventures, J.D. Costello had reached the end of the line. While one of those lucky enough to be born into a rich family, Cos-

tello was also unfortunate to have a mother who wouldn't let him slide through life. And now, Costello was down to his last chance, a chance that could forever change the course of wrestling

history.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Costello says. "We lived in this huge mansion down in New Orleans and it had everything. Well, my mother was sitting inside her study and had the butler summon me from my room. I knew right away that I was in trouble. I was real nervous. Then my mother told me that I was a failure. The black sheep of the family and that I had one more chance to be successful or she'd write me out of her will. I was devastated. I started to cry."

Past performances said that Costello didn't have a prayer. He was a loser. If he hadn't come into money by birth, Costello probably would have wound up sweeping the floors of some back alley bar on Bourbon Street, scratching out every cent for his next drink. Now, this appeared to be his very destiny. So Costello went down to the French Quarter, flopped down into a bar stool, and proceeded to drown his sorrows.

"What happened next you'll never believe," Costello says. "I'm sitting there drinking and in walk two of the biggest, meanest looking guys I had ever seen. They sat down beside me, said they had just been fired by the New Orleans Police Department.

*(Continued on page 20)*



Spike and Basher flank J.D. Costello, who feels he now has the means to turn around his life as a loser. The M.O.D. Squad currently holds the Mid-Southern tag team title.

***A pair of ex-cops, fired for police brutality, have joined forces with a wealthy, spoiled manager to get rich quick, capture the Mid-Southern tag team title, and hurt anyone who stands in their way***



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# INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

Something about police brutality, beating up criminals and cheap winos. They introduced themselves. Spike and Basher were their names, and they said that they needed to find a way to get rich and hurt people at the same time."

Costello was at a point where he wanted to remain rich and didn't care who got hurt. Fate had intervened and The M.O.D. Squad (Masters of Disaster) were born. Costello told his mother that he was going to form the meanest, best tag team ever and become a success. Mother was willing to go along with anything, gave her son the family's Lear jet, and sent off Costello and The M.O.D. Squad to take over the Mid-Southern area.

Make no mistake about it. Spike and Basher are two mean men. In their video, The M.O.D. Squad is shown entering a bar, flashing cards which say "License To Hurt" and physically abusing a pool player, who appears to have done nothing wrong. There is no reason behind The M.O.D. Squad's actions, besides an indiscriminate urge to maim anyone who stands in their way.

Their true background is a mystery. Whether or not they were policemen could not be confirmed without their real names, which Costello refuses to reveal. Apparently, though, they have prior wrestling experience. Within 25 days of their arrival in the Mid-Southern area, The M.O.D. Squad had become the new Mid-Southern tag team champions. A series of bizarre events, mostly initiated by Costello and his vicious duo, led to the stunning title change.

Spike and Basher were scheduled to make their debut on March 3 in Memphis' Mid South Coliseum in a title bout against

The Fantastics. But the Mid-Southern tag team champions failed to show and later revealed that their car had broken down between Nashville and Memphis. By the time a mechanic appeared to repair the engine, they said, it was past the scheduled time of the bout. The Fantastics claim that they tried to call officials at the Coliseum, but couldn't get through.

Naturally, Costello and The M.O.D. Squad were suspicious of The Fantastics' explanation. Costello said it was "hard to believe that the engine in a Cadillac would break down so easily." But The Fantastics, having never mentioned the type of car they were driving, accused The M.O.D. Squad of tampering with the engine.

The next week, Costello offered a sack of gold coins, valued at \$3,000, in exchange for a title match with The Fantastics. The challenge was accepted. A wild match took place, and near the end of the bout, all four men were



Spike (right) and Basher keep Paul Diamond close to their corner. The M.O.D. Squad displays more wrestling expertise than their reported past indicates.

in the ring. The referee tried to separate the two illegal wrestlers when Bobby Fulton flipped Basher for a three-count.

But the referee, still busy separating Tommy Rogers and Spike, never saw the pin. Costello entered the ring and knocked out Fulton with the sack of gold coins. Basher covered Fulton and The M.O.D. Squad appeared to have won the tag team championship. However, Costello's bag of gold coins had inadvertently opened, revealing hundreds of heavy duty washers. Promoter Eddie Marlin saw this, reversed the decision, and returned the title to The Fantastics.

The M.O.D. Squad and Fantastics were scheduled to wrestle the following Monday in Memphis, but again the champions failed to show up. Costello pointed out to the officials that according to the rules, "If a team misses two or more championship matches with a particular set of opponents without apparent reasonable cause, their belts will be forfeited to the opposing team." The Fantastics were unable to explain their absence and were forced to relinquish the belts to The M.O.D. Squad.

Of course, The M.O.D. Squad will now have to defend the tag team title and prove their ability over the long run. This is a cruel, vicious team that will do anything to be successful and hurt people. They're backed by a man, J.D. Costello, who molded himself after Manager of the Year Jim Cornette.

"My mother is the driving force here," Costello says. "I want to make my mother proud of me and I don't care how it's done. I'm no longer the black sheep of the family. The M.O.D. Squad is my gift to mother." □



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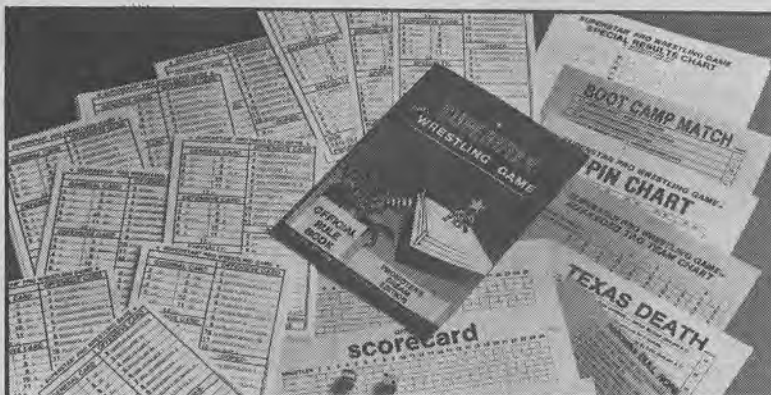
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# Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Kendall Windham flails away at Kevin Sullivan from the middle rope. Kendall claims partial responsibility for chasing "The Prince of Darkness" out of the Sunshine State.

**Q:** I must tell you, Kendall. When I think of the prototype wrestling machine, you don't immediately spring to mind. Do you feel physically adequate out there in the ring?

**A:** I wouldn't be out there night after night defending the Florida title if I wasn't capable. How do you think I defeat my opponents? With mirrors?

**Q:** It's not that I necessarily dismiss your ability as a professional. I must however question your stamina. Your ability to take punishment. You don't have a lot of flesh between your skin and bones. If you don't bulk up, I think the nightly pounding is going to take its toll.

**A:** If it'll make things easier for you, just think of me as wrestling's answer to Thomas Hearns. What's Hearns? 6'2", 158 pounds? Hardly stocky by anyone's standards, yet he seems to get the job done. He's shown an ability to go 15 rounds with hard punchers and it hasn't affected his career.

**Q:** Excuse me, Kendall, but that's hardly a fair comparison. Hearns has two fights a year. At the most we're talking about an hour and a half of action. You're wrestling 20, 30 minutes a night, six and seven nights a week. Boxers need to be light on their feet. And Hearns' tremendous reach works out to his advantage. He can keep opponents at bay. Reach is a negligible statis-





# KENDALL WINDHAM

**K**ENDALL WINDHAM IS a good son. He respects his elders. He assists old ladies across busy streets and calls his mother when he's away from home. The anomalous fact is that as a professional wrestler he makes his living beating the plasma out of other men.

In street clothes, Windham projects an image as fearful as a shoe salesman. His angelic features define a mug soft and contemplative, more whimsical than physical. Yet the facts speak for themselves. After finishing as runner-up in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* Rookie of the Year voting last year, Windham has not only avoided the sophomore jinx, but has emerged as one of the leading wrestlers on the Florida scene.

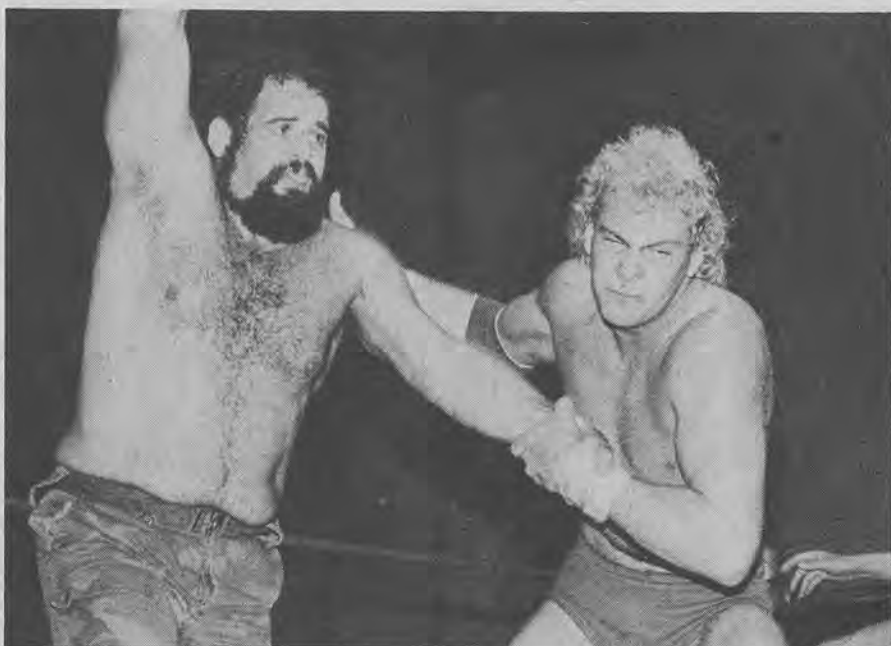
Still, to many, Blackjack Mulligan's kid is more bean than mean. As in string bean. In this question and answer session with Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner, Windham answers his detractors, asserting his independence as a wrestler and a physical force separate from his brother and father. In fact, are we hearing things or is Kendall Windham strafing under the watchful eyes of his father and brother? Decide for yourself, as Kendall candidly explains how it was to grow up in the breast of a famous wrestling family.

tic in wrestling. Furthermore, he is boxing men in his own weight class. You are wrestling opponents who outweigh you by 50 and 60 pounds. How long do you think you can take it?

**A:** I guess the origins of my success will remain a mystery. All I know is that I have the Florida belt. I've spent a good part of the year battling Kevin Sullivan and his brood, and Kevin's no longer in Florida. I feel great. The weariness and fatigue that everyone's been predicting for me hasn't happened. I'm never tired in the ring. If you need an answer to satisfy the readers' curiosity, then we'll say it's my past experience in the ring as a boxer, which, despite what you may think, gives me a considerable advantage over my opponents. Also my diet provides me with a big advantage.

**Q:** What's so unusual about your diet?

**A:** First understand the eating habits of most wrestlers. They're holed up in hotel rooms for weeks on end, at the nutritional mercy of whatever the greasy spoon downstairs has to offer. My father's attitude has always been it's either meat and potatoes or it wasn't food. Then he'd get in the ring and wonder why he was moving so slowly. There have been major advances in sports nutrition over the last decade, but they've been largely ig-



Kendall whips The Cuban Assassin into the opposite ropes. Kendall lost his Florida title to the Assassin but regained it shortly after.

nored by the wrestling community. Diet has a direct bearing on your strength and endurance. I have a personal nutritionist. My diet is scientifically modulated. Strict attention is paid to my blood chemistry.

**Q:** I still think a steak dinner couldn't hurt you.

**A:** It's been determined that my ideal wrestling weight is 235 pounds, which isn't much more than I weigh right now. Anything more than that would slow me down. It's weight I will put on slowly in conjunction with a comprehensive exercise and training regimen.

**Q:** I remember speaking with a much

less intense Kendall Windham a little over year ago. Today, you seem more determined, more anxious, as if you have something to prove at every waking moment. Has the beach boy lost his mellow?

**A:** You sound like my friends. They all think I have a chip on my shoulders lately.

**Q:** Do you? I saw the tapes of your match against Bob Roop when your brother, Barry, interfered on your behalf. You turned on him like a Smith on a Jones.

**A:** No, it was nothing like that at all. People always want to make something of nothing.



Above: Kendall and Barry watch intently as their father, Blackjack Mulligan, works in the ring during a six-man match. Kendall appreciates his older brother, but feels he needs to be left on his own. Below: Kendall leans into a headlock against Rip Rogers, exerting as much force as he can produce.



**Q:** And there's the interview in a local South Florida magazine where you're quoted as saying you envy wrestlers whose fathers and brothers were electricians and doctors.

**A:** That quote was taken out of context. What I meant was I was tired of paying high electrical and medical bills. It was not expressing dissatisfaction with my family's choice of careers.

**Q:** And, in a televised interview not too long ago, Barry Windham, your brother, was overheard as saying, "I think sometimes Kendall wishes me and Pop would disappear. Not forever, just for a couple of months so he could be on his own. As long as we're around he

doesn't think that day will ever happen. And he might be right."

**A:** You do your homework don't you?

**Q:** It's my job, Kendall.

**A:** Look, is my rebellion so different from the son who foregoes his daddy's law practice for the Peace Corps? Is it wrong to want my own identity?

**Q:** Had you joined the Peace Corps, you certainly would have gained your own identity. Instead you chose a wrestling career, a profession in which two of its most established stars happen also to be your blood relatives. The Massini Brothers Funeral Parlor couldn't have dug a deeper grave for you.

**A:** Nevertheless, I should be recognized on my own achievements and failures, not on those of my brother and father.

**Q:** In theory, yes, but both you and I know that's not the way of the world. Comparisons are inevitable. Your brother changed his name to Windham and moved to another part of the country to relieve the pressure. Maybe you should change your name to Murgatroid and move to California.

**A:** I don't want to do it Barry's way. I want to show everyone that I can exist with my family—I'm proud of my family—and yet remain an individual. What happened the other day with Barry could have been avoided if he'd only realize I can take care of myself.

**Q:** He thinks you're too skinny.

**A:** He's one to talk. When he started out he made me look fat. Don't worry about me, dammit. I'm fine. Barry should worry about himself.

**Q:** He's your brother. Who should he worry about?

**A:** You sound like my mother.

**Q:** Who thinks you're too skinny also, by the way.

**A:** Anything else my family wants me know?

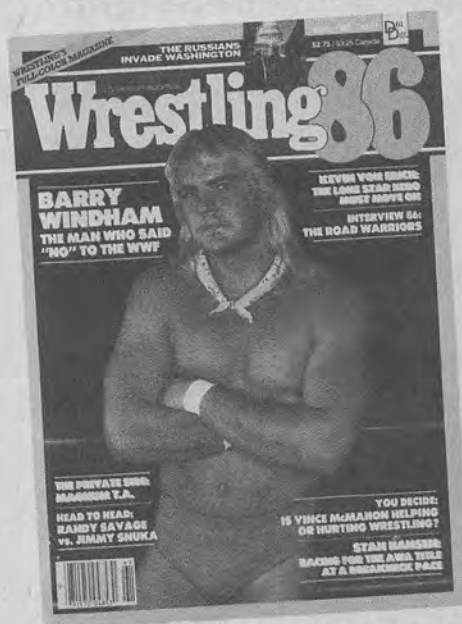
**Q:** No, but this is a great opportunity to tell them what *you* want them to know.

**A:** Family, friends and fans: Kendall Windham is alive and healthy and looking forward to wrestling for many years to come. He wishes to tell his mother and father that he is eating well and getting plenty of rest. And Dad, I've been practicing a variation of the clawhold that will really surprise you. Kendall would like his brother Barry to know that he loves him very much and appreciates his concern, but he should understand that the only way Kendall will stand on his own is if he is allowed to fall on his own. Right, big brother? And, finally, Kendall thanks his fans for the enthusiastic support they've given him since day one. Thank you, one and all. □



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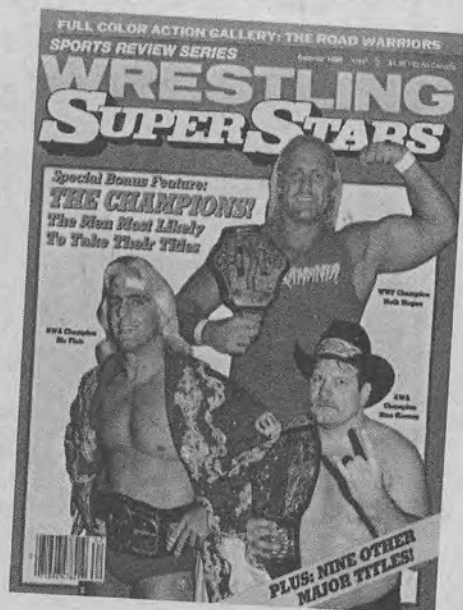
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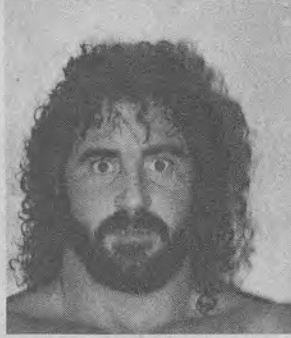
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THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

**RAY**



**HERCULES  
HERNANDEZ**

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will offer their candid opinions of one  
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming  
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,  
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Hercules Hernandez has the perfect wrestler's build, he's tough, and he has a killer instinct. On those points all of our panelists agree. But is that enough? Does Hernandez (kneeing Cousin Junior) have the skills to be a world champion? That is a major point of contention.





### **BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

"Let me tell you, this Hercules Hernandez, he is a very, very tough man. He's got good upper body strength, very strong leg muscles, and he's developing a strong killer instinct. I think Fred Blassie has a lot to do with that, with building that killer instinct in a man. He's always managed maniacs, and he's going to turn Hernandez into a maniac."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



### **KILLER KOWALSKI**

"Don't let the fancy clothing fool you. Sure, Hernandez might look like something out of *Ben Hur*, but once he takes off those leather duds, he's as rugged as they come. I like Hernandez. He's a scapper, a puncher, a biter, a pounder. He'll do anything he's got to do in order to win a match. I like that in a man."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



### **GENE KINISKI**

"Hernandez is in a position in his career where he should be moving forward like greased lightning. He's got all the raw talent in the world, and frankly I'm a little surprised that Fred Blassie hasn't been able to do more to advance his career in the WWF. I think if Hercules could give Hulk Hogan a good run for his money."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.



### **BUDDY ROGERS**

"I'll tell you something, pal, Hercules Hernandez is a sloppy, sloppy wrestler. He's all over the mat, he maintains no strict battle plan, his scientific moves are abominable, and his common sense in strategy is almost non-existent. He's a physique with no skill attached. History won't even consider him a footnote."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



### **LOU THESZ**

"Now here is a perfect example of a man who simply doesn't want to do his homework. Actually, Hernandez has a very good build, a *wrestler's* build, if you will. He's lanky enough to ensnare an opponent in a wide variety of holds, and strong enough to make those holds incredibly effective. He just doesn't seem to want to do the homework to become that effective."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

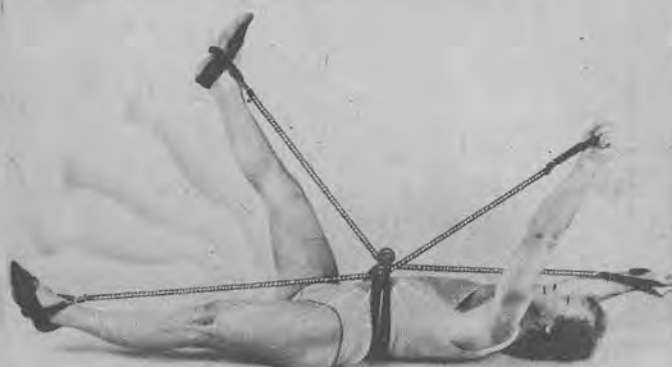
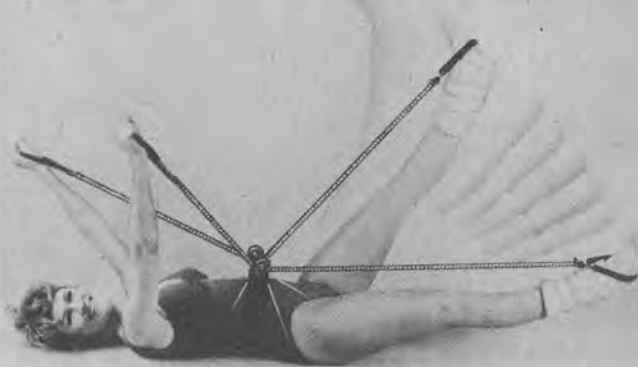


### **VERNE GAGNE**

"Last month we talked about Steve Williams, and I kind of place Williams and Hernandez in the same category. Except that Williams has a drive and a determination that will make him a success in this sport. Hernandez seems to me to be the kind of guy looking for the easy way. Believe me, there is no easy road to success in wrestling."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years by the wrestling media.

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# **The Freebirds- Bruiser Brody War:**



**A SPECIAL REPORT  
BY KERRY VON ERICH**

*Leave it to The Freebirds to forge the unlikely alliance between Kerry Von Erich and Bruiser Brody. As Kerry reports in this Wrestler exclusive, this time Michael Hayes' big mouth was too big for his own good*

## By Kerry Von Erich

**T**HE QUESTION I get asked most often these days is: How can I trust Bruiser Brody? My response is simple: How can I *not* trust Bruiser Brody? Most fans regard Brody as a raging madman, a lunatic who gains nourishment on the blood and bones of his opponents. I won't dispute this. I've seen Brody at his evil worst—on nights when his bloodlust was unquenchable and where it required six men to tear him off a beaten opponent.

But I know of a different Bruiser Brody. I know the man who stands by his word and obligations like a champ. Those who think Brody's primary devotion is to a greenback are correct. However, I've never known him to let a friend down. The conventional wisdom has Brody pegged all wrong. If he's with you he's with you to the end.

Of course, Brody has very few friends in the business. He has chosen an isolated path, and claims to have no strong feeling toward anything but money. "Money buys all else," he says, and leaves it that. I have never been inclined to engage Brody in a philosophical discussion. Ours is a professional relationship, one that depends on compatibility in the ring, not out of it. I'm not curious about the *real* Bruiser Brody because I think I already know the real Brody. If he wants to reveal more to me about himself, then he will. Right now I'm content with the way things are.

Which brings us to wrestling. Brody's been in Texas now for several months—of course he's gone on many infamous tangents—but he's been here long enough, consistently enough to embroil himself in one of the hottest feuds since Chris Adams and the Von Erichs stopped speaking to each other.

When The Freebirds and Brody arrived in Texas, I feared they might ally with one another. After all, all four shared similar ring traits—an overwhelming desire to win and punish, a love of the material things, and a notorious disdain for scientific wrestlers.

Had Brody sided with The Free-



Brody grabs Michael Hayes by the hair and, with his eyes, challenges Hayes' partners to try to do something about it.

birds, it would have spelled big problems in Texas. Every rulebreaker with a chip on their shoulder wants a shot at the Von Erich family, and if four of the meanest and most ferocious decide to band together, well . . .

But it never happened and I can thank Michael Hayes and his pompous stupidity for it. Hayes had the audacity to lay down the law for Brody. If he were to fly with The Freebirds, he

would fly only with The Freebirds—and when doing so he would take his orders from Hayes. There would also be no singles matches without Hayes' permission. Can you believe the insolence of Hayes?

Brody has since told me he had no intention of joining the 'Birds but was outraged at the lack of respect The Freebirds demonstrated. I told him he shouldn't be surprised; they've done much worse than that. Much worse. I suggested if he wasn't busy, then perhaps he'd be interested in teaming up with Kevin, Lance, and myself for some matches against The Freebirds. He seemed vaguely interested but declined, saying as how he preferred singles' matches instead. I spoke about the dollar value such a series would have. He changed his tune.

Now don't misunderstand me. The Von Erichs don't need Bruiser Brody. God knows we've been fighting—and winning—our own battles long enough. And Bruiser Brody doesn't need anyone, especially a close-knit



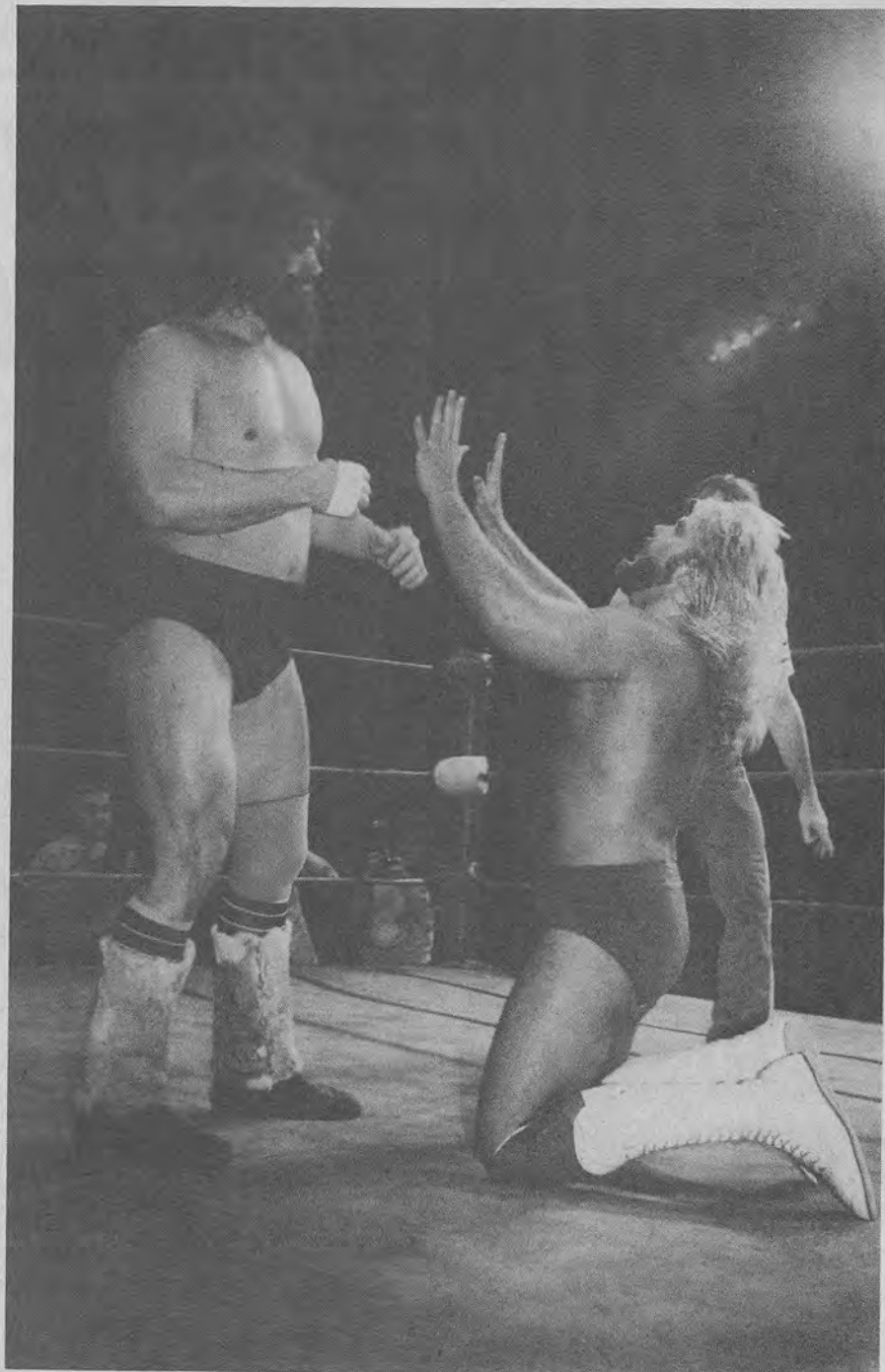


Bronco Lubich and David Manning try to force closed the dressing room door as Terry Gordy attempts to escape a rampaging Brody. Rarely does one see a look of fear in Gordy's eyes.

family that places friendship, family, and God before money and possessions. Maybe the deep contrast in our styles is what has made our team so successful.

All I can say is that I've never seen a competitor as intense as Bruiser Brody. He has thrown himself into this feud with the abandon of a wild animal. The Von Erichs have beaten The Freebirds a dozen times before and will beat them dozens of times in the future, but Bruiser Brody has put the fear of God in them. He has made Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts shut up, a feat roughly tantamount to jogging up Mt. Everest.

And he does so in his quietly brutal way, without bragging or whining. I've never known Brody to make an excuse. He exists for the moment of action, gives it his best, collects his check, and is off. And it's not all that



Brody also teaches Hayes the meaning of fear. Hayes will learn with a kick to the chest that Brody is not a man from whom to beg for mercy.

mysterious. It's just the way he has chosen to conduct his life.

I've heard rumors that The Freebirds are planning to clear out of Texas as pretty soon. If that proves true, Bruiser Brody deserves all the credit. The 'Birds' egos would never let a Von Erich chase them out of Texas. They'd rather die. But like I said, Brody offers no quarter in the ring. He'll not relent to the 'Birds' psychological attacks. Physically, he comes at you like a tidal wave, everywhere at once. But, emotionally, he puts up blinders. Nothing

can affect him. He's an impassive wall, a concrete tableau of resolve.

I'm a better wrestler for knowing Bruiser Brody. He's brought some aggressiveness back into my style. For my part, I hope he's learned something from me and my family. But that's an indulgent dream. Brody is Brody, and you might as well try domesticating a moray eel before you'll get him to sit down for Sunday dinner.

Just ask The Freebirds. If you can catch them before they head out of town. □

# **Hacksaw Duggan Defeats Dick Slater: THE PRIDE OF NORTH AMERICA IS NOW PROUD OF HIMSELF!**



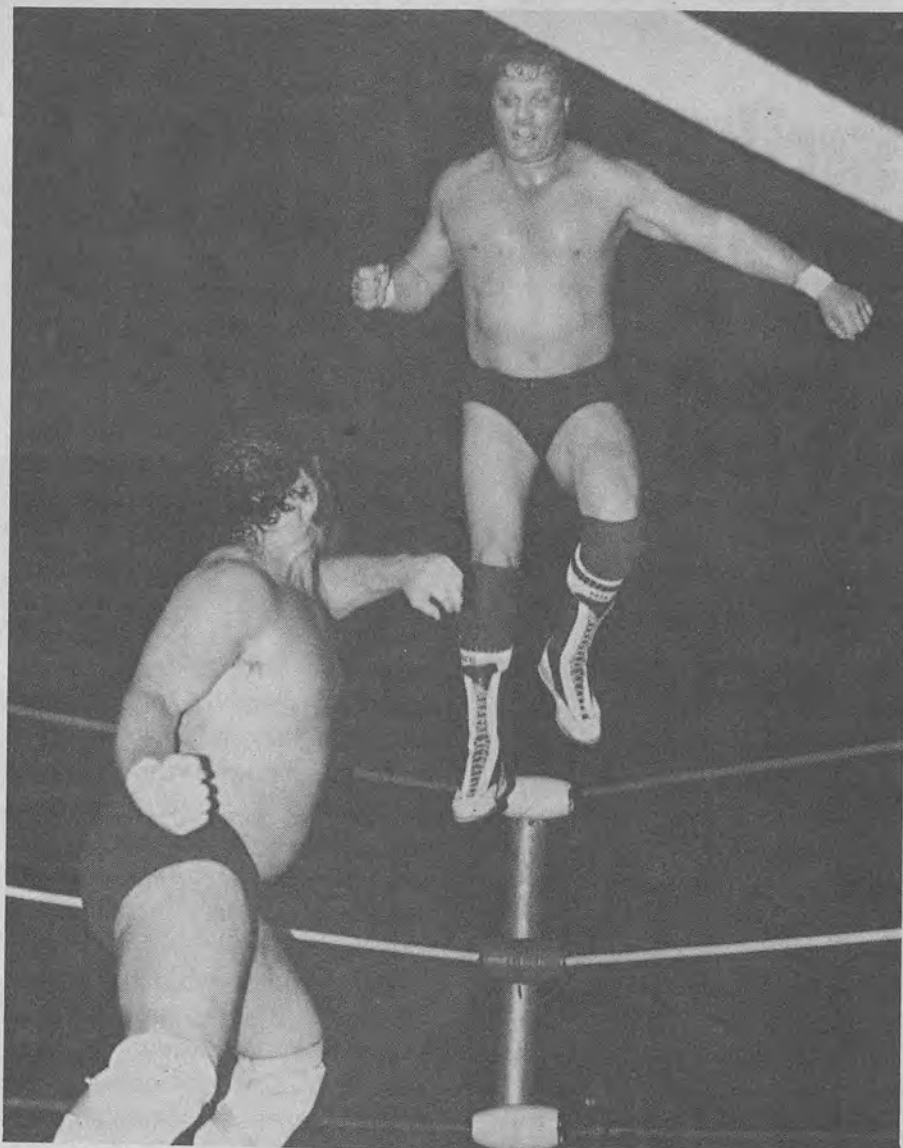
**F**IRST, CONSIDER THE situation of the world champion Kansas City Royals. Down three games to two in the 1985 World Series and trailing 1-0 in the ninth inning of game six, a blatantly bad call by first-base umpire Don Denkinger gave the Royals the break they needed. The Cardinals came apart and the Royals tied the series.

The next night in St. Louis, the Royals bombed the Cards to win the World Series, but the truth is evident to even the most unknowledgeable observer. If Denkinger had made the right call in game six, the Cardinals probably would have gone on to get the final two outs and win the Series. Instead, the momentum of the Series suddenly and incredibly shifted to Kansas City. The Royals, despite their excitement, knew that their victory was tainted. And the only way to remove that stigma would be to win the World Series in 1986.

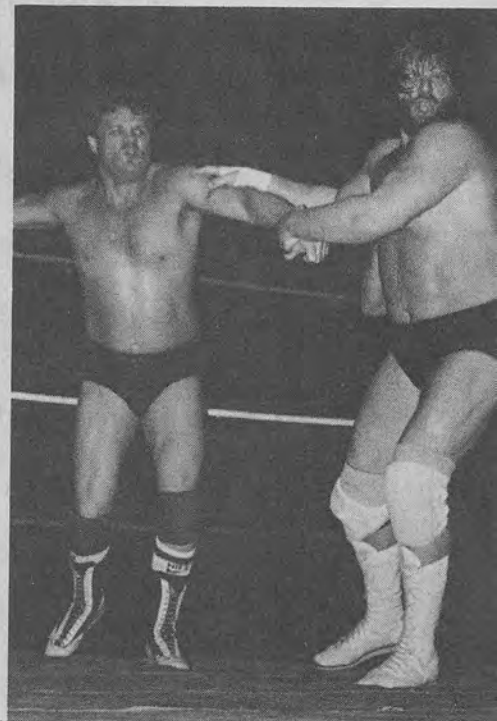
Now, consider the case of Hacksaw Jim Duggan. It all started when the UWF ordered Dick Slater to give up either his North American title or TV title, both of which he had won from Jake Roberts in a five-day period in February. Rather

*After probably the most unusual turn of events in wrestling this year, a wrestler who held two titles gave one as a gift to a friend, who lost the other to an enemy. The man who once held two titles lost two titles without ever stepping into ring. The friend lost his match and still wound up with a title. The enemy won and wound up with a title but little satisfaction. Confused? Read on*





Even though Hacksaw Duggan came into the ring with the North American title belt, he still viewed himself as Dick Slater's challenger. Leaping from the turnbuckles, Slater is greeted with a Duggan right to the mid-section (left). Duggan will use his right elbow to free himself from Slater's sleeperhold (bottom left). The wild-eyed Duggan flings Slater across the ring (below).



than just relinquish a title, Slater hired a lawyer who found a loophole in the UWF bylaws that allowed him to turn over one of his titles to a person of his choosing. So, Slater gave the TV title to his friend Buzz Sawyer. This, quite naturally, angered UWF President Bill Watts. Unable to strip Sawyer legally, Watts demanded that Slater pick Sawyer's first challenger. He handed Slater a blank contract, but Slater declined to sign, insisting that he "trusted" the UWF President and would allow him to "fill in the blanks."

That's exactly what Watts did. One blank read "Buzz Sawyer," the other blank read "Hacksaw Jim Duggan," and the third, but most important, blank read "North American Championship," not TV  
(Continued on page 58)

# The Empire Strikes Back: THE BRITISH BULLDOGS WIN THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE!

**T**HE BRITISH BULLDOGS are an anomaly in the WWF. They're different, something apart from the general average, something that the fans never really expected. And against all odds and logic, there they are.

Indeed, the WWF is a federation that seems to place a premium on silliness. Adrian Adonis' absurd posturings are welcomed with squeals of delight by WWF announcers. Jake Roberts' 15-foot long boa constrictor offers final punctuation to each of his matches, distracting from the very real fact that without a snake, Roberts can *wrestle*.

Terry Funk brands his opponents. Junkyard Dog dances with his fans. Uncle Elmer dances a hillbilly jig. Lanny Poffo recites poetry.

Which is not to say that the WWF wrestlers hold a monopoly on pre- or post-match ridiculousness by wrestlers; let's not forget Adrian Street, Kevin Sullivan, or Sgt. Slaughter. But in a federation



that promotes "sports entertainment" rather than professional wrestling, there is often far more emphasis on "entertainment" than "sports."

Seems that someone forgot that good sports can be more entertaining than such so-called "entertainment" any day of the week.

And that's where The British Bulldogs come in. Dynamite Kid

and Davey Boy Smith are no-nonsense wrestlers. They don't enter the ring holding a British flag, they don't squat down on the mat like a couple of bulldogs, they don't bark, they don't sing songs, they don't embellish their arena appearances with senseless frivolities.

They don't have to. Kid and Smith may well be the two purest wrestlers in the world today, as well as the most inventive. Their snap suplexes are remarkably fast and powerful; their finishing maneuvers are complex, impossible to anticipate, and, it seems, endless in number; their teamwork is arguably the best in the sport.

At WrestleMania 2, the Bulldogs demonstrated just how fine a tag team they are by finally realizing officially what the fans had known all along for months—that Kid and Smith were a better team than Valentine and Beefcake, that they deserved to wear the WWF World tag team belts. The Bulldogs had already scored victories

***The British Bulldogs' WWF World tag team title victory over Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine will be remembered as the greatest match of WrestleMania 2. As Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith look to the future, they're welcomed by visions of success and adoration—and a long, healthy title reign***



over Valentine and Beefcake in the months prior to WrestleMania 2, but had failed to capture the belts for one technicality or another.

But now the belts are around the waists of Kid and Smith, and fans are delighted. Some are already beginning to call the Bulldogs the greatest WWF tag team of all time, and that may not be far from the truth.

At this early point in the Bulldogs' title reign, it seems prudent to examine the teams that will undoubtedly be challenging for the tag team title, and to assess their chances against Kid and Smith.

#### **Valentine and Beefcake:**

There is little doubt that the Bulldogs' first challengers will be the former champions. Kid and Smith have already faced their archrivals in several post-WrestleMania 2 singles matches, and have demonstrated their superiority quite ably. It seems highly unlikely that the former champions can rally from their title loss, significantly improve their mental attitude and physical style, and regain the belts.

Dynamite Kid doesn't merely backdrop Brutus Beefcake. By leaning back at the proper angle and throwing his left arm up at the right instant, he is, in effect, "backthrowing" him.



Davey Boy Smith whips Brett Hart into the ropes.

**The Hart Foundation:** Kid and Smith well know the abilities of "Anvil" Jim Neidhardt and Brett Hart. Both members of Jimmy Hart's Hart Foundation are willing to tackle the Bulldogs on their own terms: speed and science, plus a dose of brawling for good measure. But the Foundation, as good a team as they are, cannot hope to match Kid and Smith in terms of speed and complexity of finishing maneuvers. They are simply outclassed by the Bulldogs, and would no doubt have to rely on Jimmy Hart's interference to even harbor a hope of coming close to a victory.

**Terry and Dory Funk Jr.:** never hope to match the Bulldogs in terms of speed, and will recover more slowly than most from are past their prime. They can Kid and Smith's snap suplexes.



Dory and Terry Funk hold Rick Steamboat in place as Jimmy Hart takes a cheap shot.

**King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd:** Strangely enough, this might be the one team able to give the Bulldogs the most

trouble. Relative lightweights, Kid and Smith would find it difficult to effectively unleash their scientific prowess against these two behemoths,



Big John Studd and King Kong Bundy double-team Andre the Giant. The Bulldogs might be overmatched physically against these two.



Nikolai Volkoff lifts Smith off his feet with a headbutt to the chest.

**Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff:** Volkoff is far too slow and ponderous to give the Bulldogs much trouble, but the Sheik—a master wrestler—might be able to keep them on their toes. The question here is: Does The Iron Sheik have the strength and stamina to successfully carry his team in a lengthy title match against Kid and Smith?

moths, and would probably engage in a sting-and-move strategy. On the other hand, the ponderous Bundy and Studd would find it equally difficult to catch the speedy Bulldogs.

\* \* \*

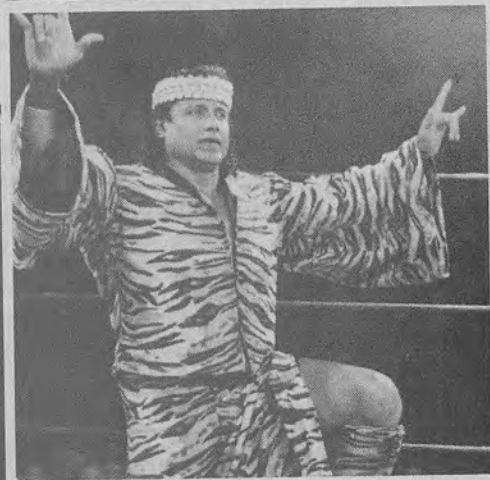
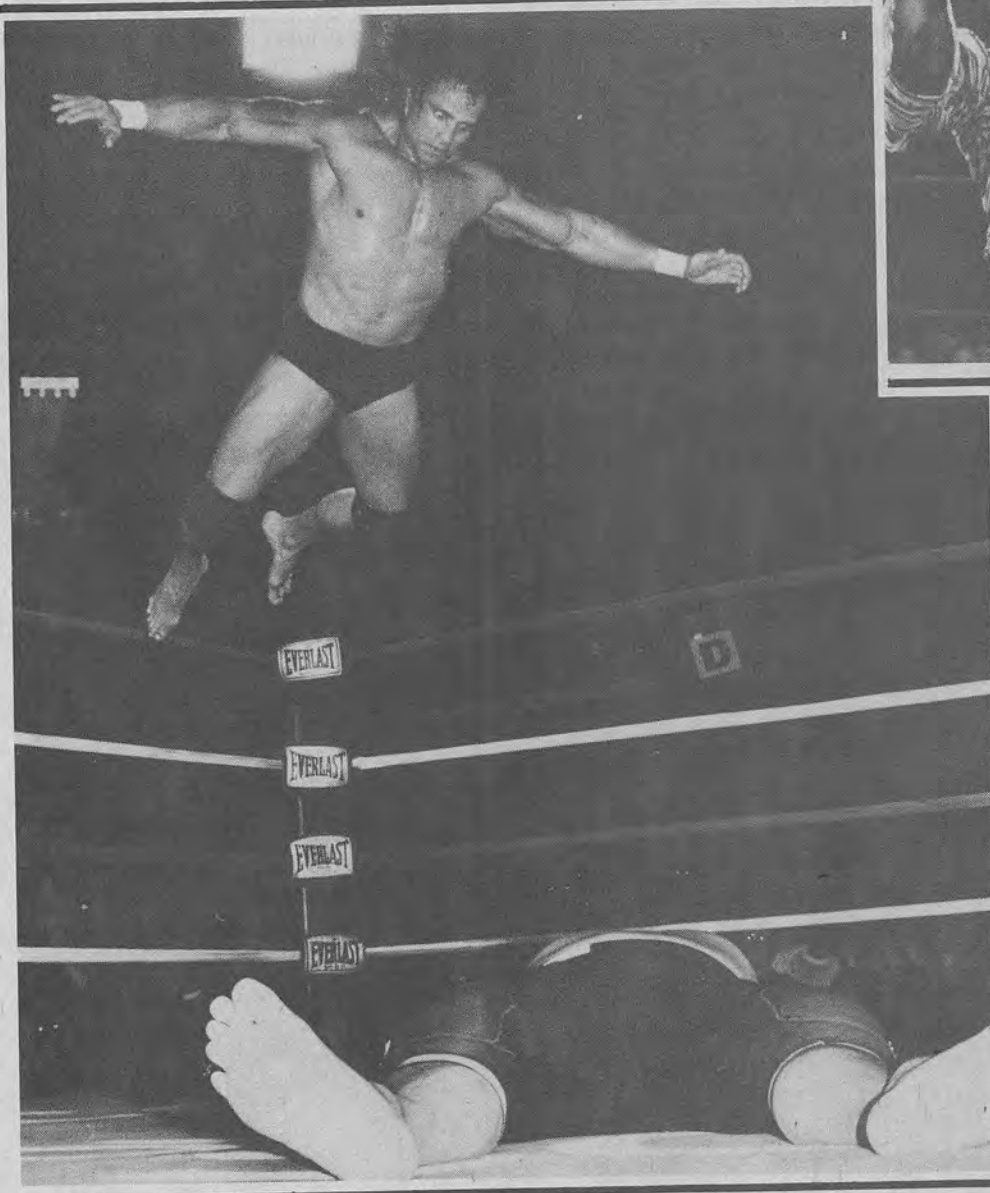
Indeed, there may not be any team in the WWF capable of seriously challenging The British Bulldogs for the World tag team belts. Unseating Kid and Smith is going to require one of two things: (1) That an established WWF team develop radically new strategies, or (2) That a pair of singles wrestlers form a new union and challenge for the belts (the likeliest pairs for success: Jake Roberts and Roddy Piper, or perhaps Randy Savage and Magnificent Muraco).

But either of those alternatives would take a matter of several months to implement. For now, The British Bulldogs look to be settling in comfortably for a long and glorious title reign. □



# Update On Jimmy Snuka:

## ***THE SUPERFLY WILL SOAR AGAIN!***



Jimmy Snuka's daredevil style (left) endeared him to WWF fans in the early 1980s. The Superfly's familiar salute is once again being seen in mainland U.S.A. (above).

***Jimmy Snuka's personal demons proved more formidable than his toughest opponents. Now, after a self-imposed exile, Snuka has returned to the states and appears better than ever***

**S**UPERFLY JIMMY SNUKA'S foot nudged a conch shell—he gave it a soft kick back into the foamy ocean swell and watched carefully as it drifted out to sea. Like most Polynesian natives, Snuka's nautical intuition told him the eddys and undertows of these waters would carry the

shell quickly beyond the breakers where a sharp southeasterly current would crest and impassionately deposit it into the vast Pacific.

Snuka's gaze floated lazily out with the shell, past Kealaikahiki Point toward Honolulu's lights and beyond. At this point in his career,

Snuka had no desire to share the fate of the shellfish; he had come to enjoy the pleasing sameness of his life, the elegance of routinized Paradise. Beyond the island, things became hazily warped and unpredictable; life between the skyscrapers could drive a man to do crazy things.

So, there was a sadness as Snuka rose against the iridescent backdrop of Maui's Red Hills. Snuka knew he would not play out his life on these beloved palm-frosted shores. He knew there were chapters of his life yet to be written, and the grist for those pages could be found only in the mainland's tumultuous jetstream. One week later Snuka followed the conch's trail eastward, and found himself wrestling main events in California and Oregon, his year-long Polynesian exile reduced to memory.

There was a point in his career—specifically the early 1980s—when Superfly Jimmy Snuka was the most popular ath-

lete in professional wrestling. The incalculable risks he took in the ring, the daring promiscuity of his moves, and his defiant courage created a legion of fans more loyal and outspoken than those of Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, or any other titled wrestler.

Snuka's "superfly" maneuver—whereupon he'd scale the top rope (once, in a WWF title match against champion Bob Backlund, Snuka climbed a 15-foot cage to reproduce the move) and soar majestically outward, his body a muscled evocation of Greek royalty, until he came crashing down on his helpless opponent. Just as Snuka has credited the legendary Mil Mascaras with inspiring him to

achieve new heights, so have dozens of wrestlers given Snuka the credit for changing their careers.

But there has never been anyone, before or since, who could light up a crowd like Snuka. No wrestler possessed his natural flair for drama and excitement. Although much of his career was spent as a rulebreaker, Snuka was never vilified as one. In many ways he was the precursor for competitors like The Road Warriors, Lex Luger, and Randy Savage—rulebreakers who are cheered because of their dynamic ring skills, while their opponents are hooted indifferently.

When Snuka renounced his rulebreaking tendencies, his star peaked. There were no title shots to be had in the WWF—fellow fan

Snuka looks intently at his partner, Greg Gagne, who backs Nord the Barbarian into his corner during WrestleRock. Snuka, certainly not unfamiliar with rulebreaking tactics, will sneak in a few shots when Bruiser Brody tries to rescue his partner.





favorite Hulk Hogan remained champion and the WWF avoided the pairing like a contagious disease—but it mattered little. In feuds against Roddy Piper, Bob Orton, and Paul Orndorff, Snuka demonstrated his remarkable mettle. His leaps brought fans to the matches and to their feet, and if Snuka felt at all slighted by not being able to battle for the title, he didn't show it: After he and Piper engaged in one of their scaled-down armageddons he was quoted as saying, "Belts don't interest me, brother. It's the action I crave. I need to keep moving or else I'll dry up like an overbaked coconut."

It wasn't long, however, before the native—and essentially native—Polynesian became embroiled in another sort of action, action that removed him from the familiar confines of the ring and threw him out into the cold and vulnerable social world of New York. Snuka won't discuss the period of time in late 1984 when his movements out of the ring and into the night were reportedly more spectacular than his movements inside it.

That, coupled with a falling out with the WWF promoters, eventually sent a tired and embittered Snuka packing back to the Fiji Islands, where he fell into an uneasy retirement. "I needed to rest, that much I knew. But I didn't want to just stop all of a sudden. But the islands heal, brother. They heal and rejuvenate. Things turned out for the best."

After a four-month hiatus, Snuka wrestled briefly in Japan and appeared on spot shows throughout the South Pacific. Fans were shocked to see his trim and defined body padded with 25 extra pounds, although the extra weight barely diminished his ability.

"I wasn't in the shape I wanted to be," Snuka explained, "but I was too anxious to get back into



Snuka's biceps bulge as he snapmares The Barbarian to the mat (above). Brody makes the mistake of putting the Superfly in motion (below). Snuka will bound off the ropes and connect with a cross-bodyblock.



the ring. I couldn't wait to finish training."

Working the Polynesian circuit whetted the Superfly's appetite—for increased competition, not the grouper soufflé he had grown accustomed to eating four times a day. "I've begun to shed the weight," he says, and his recent

appearances here in the states confirmed his claims.

After months of isolated soul searching, Snuka decided to return to the scenes of his greatest triumphs. A week of easy victories in Portland alerted promoters that Jimmy Snuka was back. Verne Gagne didn't hesitate in signing the proven crowd favorite to his WrestleRock card, pitting him in a tag team match with his son, Greg, against Bruiser Brody and Nord the Barbarian. Snuka leapt from the top rope to pin Nord. The crowd of 22,000 cheered like hell. Snuka waved at his fans, unable to conceal a triumphant grin. It was just like old times.

Back in his hotel room (this disciplined Snuka declined several invitations to rage about town), he discussed his plans for the future.

"One day a time," he said. "That is my philosophy. I'm just happy to be back in the ring in front of big crowds. The people haven't forgotten me and that's important. I still have a lot of friends left in the country and I'm going to make sure they see the Superfly at his best. I won't make the same mistakes twice." □

# Paul Ellering's Shocking Statement



Dennis Condrey moves Animal to the ropes where Jim Cornette tries to rearrange the Warrior's facial features with his tennis racket.



## **“THE ROAD WARRIORS CAN'T BEAT THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS!”**

By Craig Peters

**T**HERE WERE PLENTY of matches on the card in the Philadelphia Civic Center. There was Magnum T.A.'s Russian chain match with Nikita Koloff, a six-man battle pitting Dusty Rhodes, Ronnie Garvin, and Wahoo McDaniel against Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, and Arn Anderson, and the Philly debuts of Joe “Night-hawk” Coltrain and “Gorgeous” Jimmy Garvin.

But the match I wanted to see more than any other was the NWA World tag team title match: The Midnight Express vs. The Road Warriors.

I knew that it would be only the

second time that these two pairs would meet, their only other match having been in Atlanta's Omni. On paper it seemed a titanic single contest with the makings of a remarkable feud: Warriors vs. Midnights, strength vs. speed, power vs. agility, Ellering vs. Cornette.

The match lived up to its promise—and in fact managed to exceed it.

The Warriors put their offense into overdrive as they tended *not* to rely solely on power maneuvers. In one portion of the match, for example, Animal catapulted Jimmy Snuka-style over a rebounding Bobby Eaton, then turned and delivered a chin-high

dropkick.

Yet it was Jim Cornette's interference—and Paul Ellering's inability to prevent that interference—that would prove to be the deciding factor in the contest. Cornette blatantly used his tennis racket no fewer than three times, the first time slamming Animal across the back full-force with the face of the racket. That very maneuver had more than once provided the Midnights with victories over The Rock 'n' Roll Express; to Animal's credit, the force of the blow only stunned him momentarily.

The end of the contest saw The Le-



**Has "Precious" Paul Ellering given up? Has his confidence in The Legion of Doom been destroyed? Have Hawk and Animal finally come up against the one tag team they can't beat? Maybe. Then again, maybe not**



Hawk sends Eaton flying with a spectacular flying shoulderblock (left) and follows with an unsuccessful pin attempt (above). Loverboy Dennis seeks refuge between the ropes as Animal moves in (below).



gion of Doom grow more and more frustrated by Cornette's interference (later in the match, he used the handle of the racket to jab Hawk in the throat). Hawk managed to grab the racket away from Ellering, and when the referee saw the Warrior with the illegal object, swinging it in the air and ready to attack Condrey and Eaton, he immediately disqualified the Warriors.

Condrey, Eaton, and Cornette beat a very hasty retreat to their dressing room.

A great match, plenty of action, but typical Cornette: repeated interference, snide baiting of the opposing team, and a masterful ability to draw the opposition into a position where they would disqualify themselves. Condrey and Eaton are magnificent wrestlers,

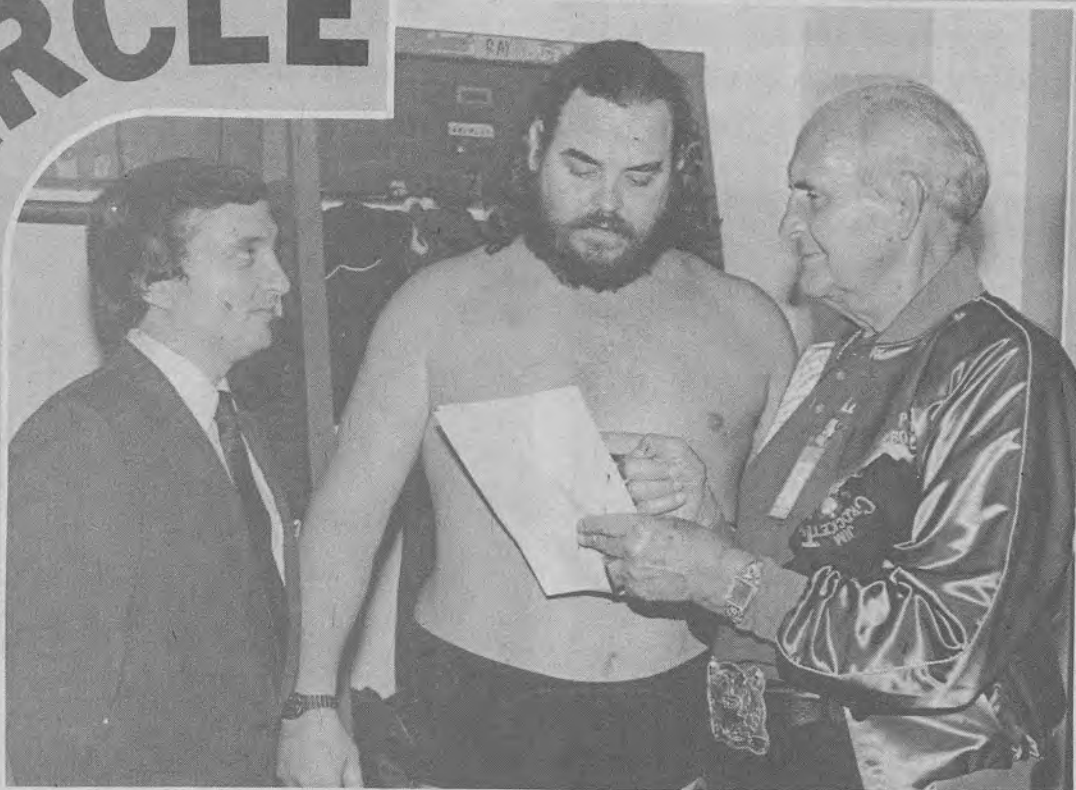
but Cornette is the master distractor. For the Warriors to beat the Midnight Express, I believe it will require that Ellering sink to Cornette's own level of covert interference. But that's something that Ellering would prefer not to have to do. Indeed, having placed a tainted past behind him, Ellering would much rather capture the NWA World belts with a clean win.

But after only two matches against the NWA World champions, Ellering may be coming to the realization that a clean pin against The Midnight Express is next to impossible.

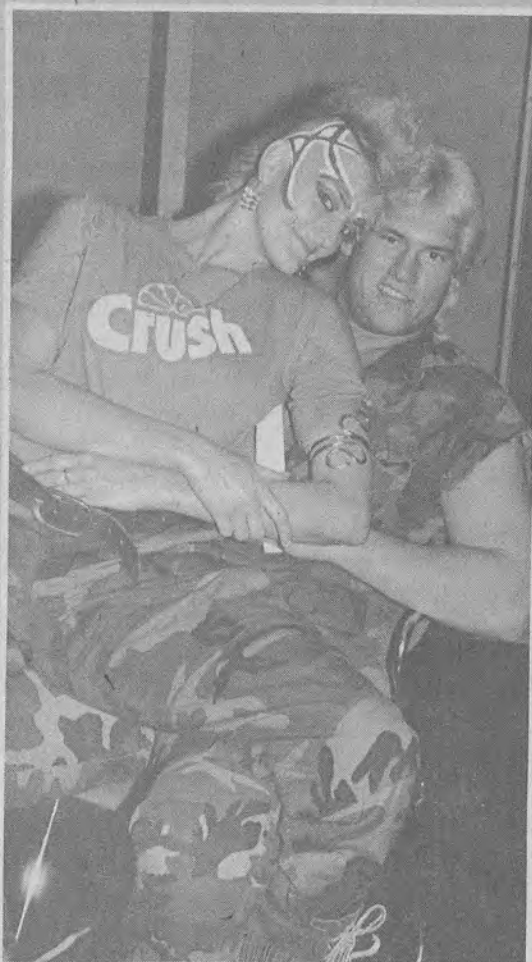
After photographing all the matches in Philadelphia, I packed my camera equipment and prepared to leave. My path to the exit brought me past one set of dressing rooms, and as I walked along the hallway I could hear argumentative screaming coming from one of the rooms. I paused, looked around to make sure that nobody else was coming, and pressed my ear against the door. My heart jumped when I heard a crash. Then I realized it was the

*(Continued on page 64)*

# BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE



UWF promoter Paul Boesch discusses business with Black Bart as Boesch's assistant, Peter Berkholz, looks on. Bart was in the UWF for the Crockett Cup Tournament at the Superdome.



Jack Victory works for The Shepherders and has Lady Maxine as a girlfriend. Interesting life, Jack.

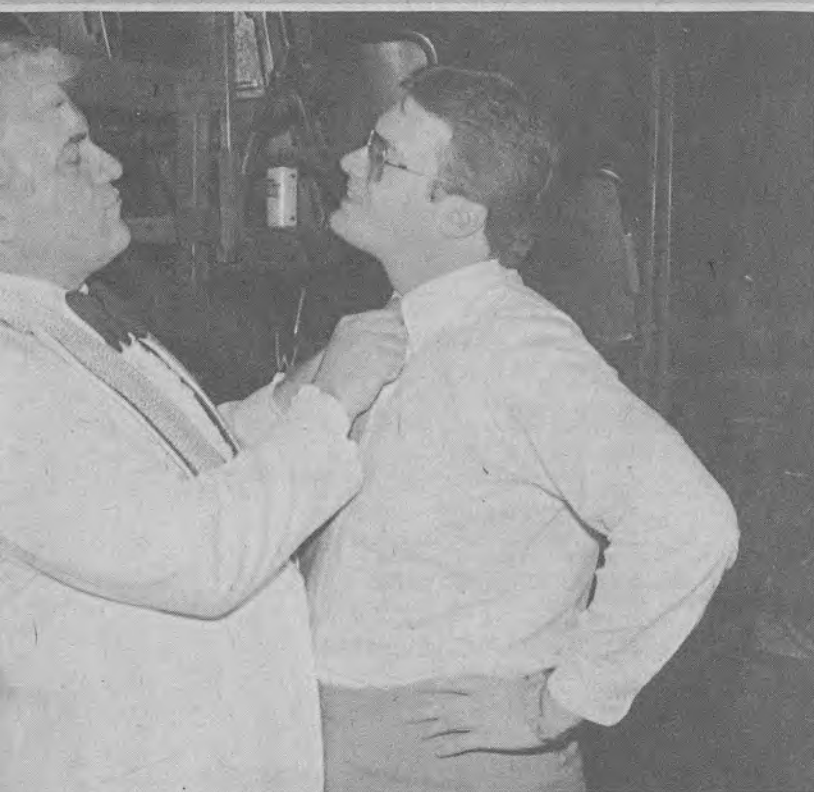


World Championship Wrestling announcer Tony Schiavone playfully attacks Rick Morton. "Next to Ric Flair, he's my toughest opponent," Morton said.

Bill Apter of *The Wrestler* and Jimmy Suzuki of Japan's *DX Pro Wrestling* focus in on Missy Hyatt. Keep those cameras steady, boys!



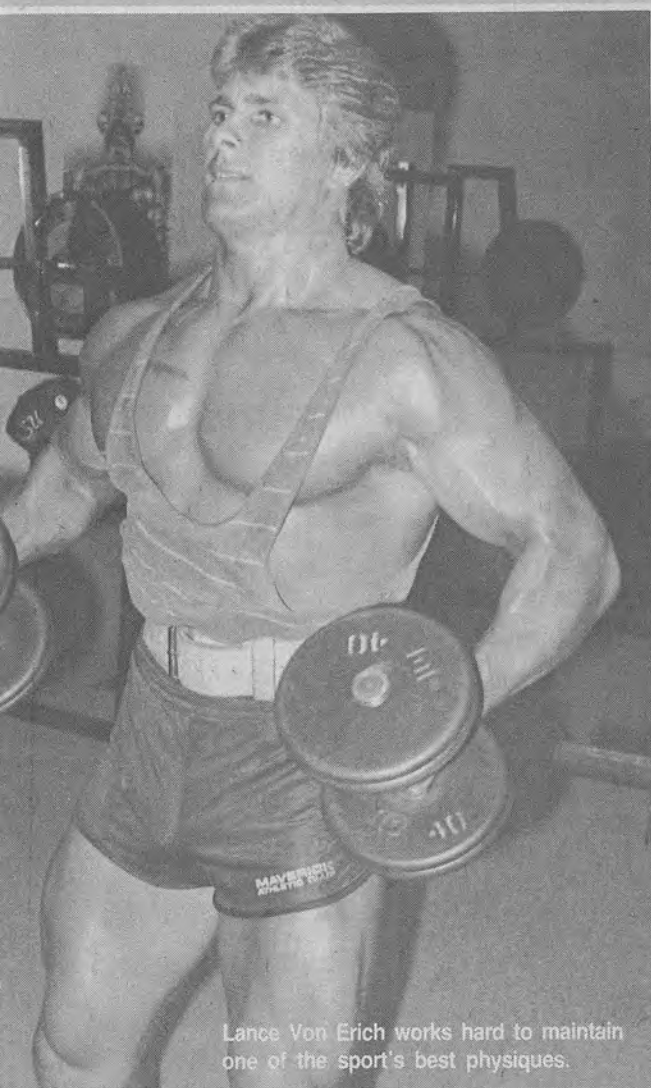




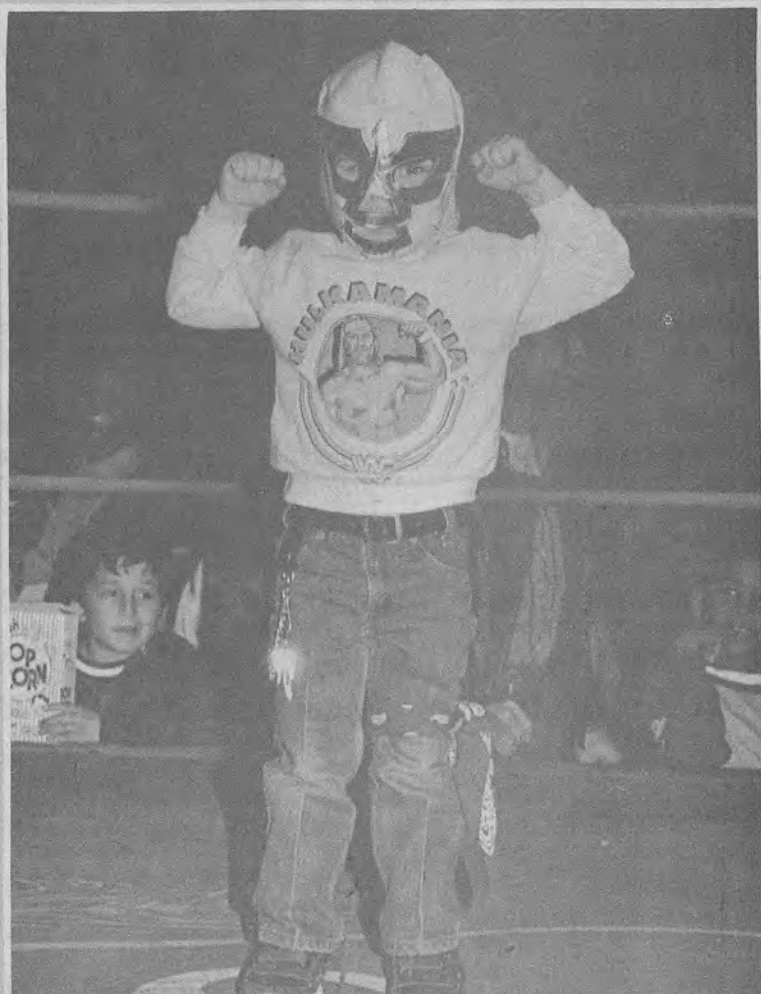
Left: J.J. Dillon makes sure Jim Comette looks just right before a card of matches. Maybe Comette should take his mother on the road.



Above: Larry Runnels, Dusty Rhodes' younger brother, converses with Nickla "Baby Doll" Roberts at a recent cocktail party.



Lance Von Erich works hard to maintain one of the sport's best physiques.



This masked Hulkamaniac from San Antonio flexes his muscles at the Convention Center Arena. Through the tireless investigative work of Craig Peters, it was learned that this young man's true identity is Luke Ryan.

# OFF WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Hacksaw Duggan

## TOP10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
NWA World champion  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**  
WWF World champion  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**  
AWA World champion  
322, Borger, TX
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
U.S. champion  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
Intercontinental champion  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**  
No. 1 contender: National title  
302, Austin, TX
- 7—**RICK RUDE**  
World Class champion  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
National champion  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 9—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
North American champion  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 10—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
No. 1 contender: World Class title  
260, Denton, TX

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title  
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**  
WWF World tag team champions  
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 3—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
NWA World tag team champions  
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 4—**SCOTT HALL & CURT HENNIG**  
AWA World tag team champions  
Combined weight: 525 pounds
- 5—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title  
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 6—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title  
Combined weight: 511 pounds
- 7—**THE FANTASTICS**  
UWF tag team champions  
Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 8—**THE FABULOUS ONES**  
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title  
Combined weight: 499 pounds
- 9—**IRON SHEIK & NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**  
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title  
Combined weight: 607 pounds
- 10—**MAGNUM T.A. & DUSTY RHODES**  
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title  
Combined weight: 547 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

## NWA

World Champion:  
**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**RICK MORTON**  
228, Memphis, TN
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—**WAHOO McDANIEL**  
260, Midland, TX
- 9—**LEX LUGAR**  
280, Chicago, IL
- 10—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX

## AWA

World Champion:  
**STAN HANSEN**  
322, Borger, TX

- 1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 2—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 3—**BRUISER BRODY**  
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 4—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 5—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 6—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**  
316, parts unknown
- 7—**SCOTT HALL**  
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**BORIS ZUKHOV**  
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 9—**GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 10—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**  
257, Minneapolis, MN

## WWF

World Champion:  
**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
238, Honolulu, HI
- 3—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
274, Sunset Beach, HA
- 4—**TITO SANTANA**  
245, Mission, TX
- 5—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 6—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 8—**TERRY FUNK**  
247, Amarillo, TX
- 9—**JOHN STUDD**  
364, Washington, DC
- 10—**ADRIAN ADONIS**  
303, New York, NY

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**SHASKA WHATLEY**  
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**JIMMY VALLANT**  
251, New York, NY
- 9—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**  
245, El Paso, TX
- 10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**  
231, Mexico



# CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

## WORLD CLASS

- 1—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—**BRIAN ADIDAS**  
238, Denton, TX
- 3—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 4—**BRUISER BRODY**  
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 5—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 6—**LANCE VON ERICH**  
260, Dallas, TX
- 7—**ICEMAN PARSONS**  
242, St. Louis, MO
- 8—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
230, Stratford, England
- 9—**THE MISSING LINK**  
273, parts unknown
- 10—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**  
232, Winter Haven, FL

## UWF

- 1—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 2—**KORTSIA KORCHENKO**  
286, Russia
- 3—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—**TERRY TAYLOR**  
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 5—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
265, Tulsa, OK
- 6—**KOKO B. WARE**  
241, Memphis, TN
- 7—**CHAVO GUERRERO**  
237, Juarez, Mexico
- 8—**DICK SLATER**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—**BRETT SAWYER**  
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 10—**TARRAS BULBA**  
237, Outer Mongolia

## FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGAR**  
280, Chicago, IL
- 2—**KENDALL WINDHAM**  
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—**TYREE PRIDE**  
231, Haiti
- 5—**KENDO NAGASAKI**  
248, Singapore
- 6—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**  
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**BOB ROOP**  
273, Tampa, FL
- 8—**THE CUBAN ASSASSIN**  
236, Cuba
- 9—**RON BASS**  
265, Pampa, TX
- 10—**MIKE GRAHAM**  
229, Tampa, FL

## MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BILL DUNDEE**  
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 3—**DUTCH MANTEL**  
242, Bucksnorth, TN
- 4—**BUDDY LANDELL**  
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 5—**BILLY TRAVIS**  
225, Lexington, KY
- 6—**JOS LeDUC**  
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 7—**RIP ROGERS**  
238, Atlanta, GA
- 8—**ABDUL KHADAFY**  
265, Libya
- 9—**PAUL DIAMOND**  
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 10—**FRANK MORELL**  
252, Nashville, TN

## CONTINENTAL

- 1—**WENDELL COOLEY**  
238, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**  
226, Marietta, GA
- 3—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**  
227, South Wales
- 4—**JERRY STUBBS**  
235, Pensacola, FL
- 5—**THE BULLET**  
234, parts unknown
- 6—**MR. WRESTLING II**  
247, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**TOMMY RICH**  
232, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—**ROBERT FULLER**  
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—**TOM PRITCHARD**  
220, Houston, TX
- 10—**JIMMY GOLDEN**  
234, Montgomery, AL

## NORTHWEST

- 1—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**  
245, Portland, OR
- 2—**BOBBY JAGGERS**  
265, Dunlap, KS
- 3—**RIP OLIVER**  
245, Tampa, FL
- 4—**THE ASSASSIN**  
249, parts unknown
- 5—**BRADY BOONE**  
236, Charlotte, NC
- 6—**MIKE MILLER**  
260, Memphis, TN
- 7—**SCOTT DORING**  
255, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**MOONDOG MORETTI**  
245, Boise, ID
- 9—**COCOA SAMOA**  
239, Samoa
- 10—**THE ASSASSIN**  
240, parts unknown

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**  
238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**RICK MORTON**  
228, Memphis, TN
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**TITO SANTANA**  
245, Mission, TX
- 10—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
236, Sweetwater, TX

## MOST HATED

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**  
322, Borger, TX
- 4—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 5—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
276, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 8—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—**SHASKA WHATLEY**  
238, El Paso, TX
- 10—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA

For period ended April 30, 1986

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

*There's a change in the wind.* The Road Warriors remain atop the tag team ratings without the benefit of a major or minor title, but their grip on number one is tenuous at best. A victory in the Crockett Cup tag team tournament ennobled their claim, but without a championship belt of their own, look for the Warriors' 21-month stranglehold on the number one spot to end soon. Knocking at the door are Jim Cornette's **Midnight Express** and newly crowned WWF tag team champs, **The British Bulldogs**. The Bulldogs are arguably the hottest commodities in the sport at the moment, and would like nothing more than to take that number one ranking over to the WWF.

**AWA goes AWOL.** With the exception of champions **Scott Hall** and **Curt Hennig** there is no other AWA tag team in the top 10 ratings. The WWF is represented by three teams, as is the NWA. The UWF has two teams. The number one contenders for Hall and Hennig's belts are the untried and untested **Midnight Rockers** composed of **Marty Jannetty** and **Shawn Michaels**. Until this pair of upstarts shed the hybrid shadow of **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** and **Midnight Express** and establish a reputation of their own, the AWA will go without a contender in the ratings.

**Spotlight on the Central States.** This often overlooked area is presently bursting with top talent.



Bruiser Brody



Bob Brown

## CENTRAL STATES

- 1—**BOB BROWN**  
252, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 2—**BRUISER BRODY**  
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 3—**HARLEY RACE**  
253, Kansas City, MO
- 4—**BUTCH REED**  
265, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**RUFUS R. JONES**  
285, Amarillo, TX
- 6—**KEVIN THE MAGNIFICENT**  
275, Oakland, CA
- 7—**AIKO SATO**  
230, Tokyo
- 8—**MIKE GEORGE**  
265, St. Joe, MO
- 9—**DIAMOND TIMOTHY FLOWERS**  
245, Fire Island, NY
- 10—**ART CREWS**  
250, Merriam, KS

Veteran **Bob Brown** captured the Central States crown from **Brett Sawyer** in December and has defended it valiantly. **Bruiser Brody** and **Harley Race** are locked into a feud so bitter it has the farm belt fans forgetting about their mortgages and crop debt. Look for **Kevin the Magnificent** to get tripped up in this region. The cocky youngster is already talking about title shots against **Ric Flair**. Let's see him first try and tackle an opponent like **Butch Reed**.



Randy Savage

**Mouth of the Month.** Peeved Paula Kalkstein, writing from Marco Island, Florida, wonders what the Most Hated category really stands for.

*I mean, every time I've seen Randy Savage, the guy has gotten a standing ovation. Fans love him in Florida and I understand he gets the same reception across the country. I've also heard Ric Flair cheered, as well as Gorgeous Jim Garvin, and Rick Rude. I must conclude, therefore, that these men are not disliked at all. Yet, they are included in your Most Hated category. Granted, I am a simple girl who may not understand the intricate techno-digital formulas that go into the formation of your ratings. Perhaps you can explain this to me. I thank you.*

Okay, Paula. No need to be smug. Here's the explanation. The Most Hated category shouldn't be looked upon as a venom meter. It's more a barometer of the fan reaction toward a given wrestler who is classified as a rulebreaker. Those cheers among the boos you hear for Savage, Rude, Garvin, and Flair do not necessarily mean they are well-liked. The noise is an indication of the excited tension the fans feel by their appearance. For instance, **Tony Garea** is a nice enough guy, but who would fans rather see wrestle **Hulk Hogan**? Garea or Savage? Most Hated might be better off labeled as Loudest Fan Reaction For A Rulebreaker. That would explain the cacophonous reception that Savage, **Lex Luger**, **Stan Hansen**, and **Bruiser Brody**—all confirmed, died-in-the-wool rulebusters—often receive. We hope this layman's explanation will clear up any misunderstanding you were having, Paula.

**We're lonely.** So give us your analysis of our analysis. The address for mail is "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □



# OWN CARS & TRUCKS FOR \$200 OR LESS



Did you know there is an incredible way you can own automobiles for \$200 or less? That's right! \$200, \$150, even as low as \$75.00. And it works for sports cars, luxury sedans, four-wheel-drives, pick-ups and vans.

It wasn't long ago that life really had me pinned down. I was unemployed and deeply in debt. Nothing it seemed would ever go right for me. In fact I had just failed at another business attempt. That was like the final straw. I was miserable, depressed and had lost every ounce of my self confidence.

Then like a lightning bolt from the sky, I discovered something fantastic, something unbelievable. A special way to own automobiles for \$200 or even less!

Don't ask me why this happened to me, because I really don't know. All I know is it came to me when I needed it most, and I didn't question it. I was so excited all I really could think about was trying it out.

So I scraped together the money and tried it. Bingo! It worked even better than I ever expected. Fact is, it worked so good I have already used it five times to own four cars and one truck, two of which only cost \$100 each. What's more, I plan on using this secret for the rest of my life to own dozens more.

Well, you might be thinking I should use this special knowledge to set up some car lots and make a load of money. I did consider that. But to be honest, I really don't want the headaches of running a full scale business. However, I would like to profit some from my discovery. So I wrote down my secret and had it printed.

I am offering it to you for just 10 dollars. I figure that I can sell enough to pay off some bills, take a vacation, and put a down payment on a house for my family. In return you will learn something incredible - a way to own automobiles for \$200 or less.

Imagine what you can do with all the money you save. You could buy boats, take exciting vacations, or even put in a swimming pool.

My method is simple and absolutely legal. It won't require you to do anything dishonest or have any special skills. It does not involve:

- leasing
- government surplus
- government sales
- auctions
- repossessions
- tax write offs
- sweepstakes
- or gambling

I am happy to say, my method can work for practically anyone who can legally own and operate a motor vehicle - teachers, factory workers, housewives, students, professionals, self-employed, unemployed and the list goes on and on.

I realize this whole concept may still sound too good to be true. The truth is if I were in your shoes I would be skeptical too! So I have included some testimonials from people who have already read and used my information:

• James, your secret is incredible! I used it to own a fantastic truck for less than \$85. I wish I had known about this years ago.  
Charles M., Florida.

• James, I admit I was skeptical at first, but this method really does work for women. It is truly the poor person's way to own fancy cars.  
Cindy D., Atlanta, Georgia.

• Ten dollars is a very small price to pay for this super information. Way to go James! You have made it possible for me to own those beautiful cars I used to only dream about.  
B.T., West Virginia.



**STOP WASTING MONEY! LEARN THE  
POOR MAN'S WAY TO OWN FANCY CARS!**

One final word. I believe in being completely honest. So I must tell you there is one drawback. My information does not describe a get rich quick scheme. It is not intended for that purpose. It is meant only to provide you with ultra low cost automobiles for your personal use. So don't order my information to get rich. Order it so you can own gorgeous cars for less than you ever imagined. You won't be a millionaire, but you can sure look and feel like one.

My method really works. I know that to be a fact. But I don't want you to take my word for it. So I am offering a **FULL & UNCONDITIONAL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**. Examine my secret in the privacy of your home. If for any reason you are not totally satisfied, just return it for a full refund. No questions asked!

**Special Notice:** Copies of my information are limited. They are available strictly on a first come, first serve basis. Order yours now so you don't have to wait another day to start enjoying these cars.

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- 2) Include \$10 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling (Florida residents add 50 cents sales tax) and make check or money order payable to Cars & Trucks. Or use VISA or Mastercard. Just fill in the appropriate information on the coupon. Be sure to sign where indicated.
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Tallahassee, FL 32314

Yes, I want to learn your secret to owning cars for \$200 or LESS! Enclosed is \$10 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling, (Florida residents please include 50 cents sales tax) If I am not totally satisfied, I can return it for a FULL REFUND!

# A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

Make check or money order payable and send to:

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ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

**"THE BIG ONE"  
ONLY \$5.00**

Please rush me ..... copies of the March issue of *PWI*. I enclose \$5.00 for each one I am ordering.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. funds only. All other countries \$7.00. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

to create conflict in the Von Erich family ("Von Erich Family Feud: Is Lance Coming Between Kevin And Kerry?" May 1986). First it was Kerry getting more publicity than Kevin. Then Lance comes, and you're trying to create some kind of feud between him and his cousins.



Lance and Kevin Von Erich team up, as do Lance and Kerry. Elvira Rosquete accuses *The Wrestler* of trying to create a conflict where none exists.

How can Lance come between Kerry and Kevin? Sure, Lance teams up with Kerry, sometimes. But he sometimes teams up with Kevin. Another thing: How can Lance be taking some of the spotlight away from Kevin and Kerry? True, Lance is new in the World Class area and all the fans like him. But both Kerry and Kevin get the same kind of reactions from the fans every time they come into an arena.

Besides, according to your ratings and probably most of the fans, Kerry and Kevin are still more popular than Lance. Your own ratings say so. Sure Lance is good, but Kerry and Kevin have no reason to be jealous of him. So why don't you guys stop trying to create conflict among the Von Erichs? Remember, blood is thicker than water.

ELVIRA ROSQUETE  
Miami, FL



## WANTS TO MARRY JANNETTY

First of all, I would like to compliment you on your magazine. It is one of the best. I have been a WWF fan for about four years. One Saturday morning I decided to watch the AWA on TV. I had never been interested in the AWA until I saw Marty Jannetty. I think he is the most gorgeous guy in the world! The problem is I cannot find any centerfolds, articles, or color posters of him in any wrestling magazine. Please tell me if he is married. I hope he isn't, because I want him!

TAMMY SYTCH  
Old Bridge, NJ

## THE RIGHT STUFF

I think Nikita Koloff will be the next NWA champ. He has the right stuff: power and great moves taught to him by Ivan Koloff. Just give him a little while to perfect everything and he will



Nikita Koloff brings Ric Flair to his knees, winning this test of strength convincingly. Reader Ben Zanks sees Koloff as the next NWA champ.

be the next champion. Even though he is a Russian, I think he is a good wrestler. And sometime if he changes his ways, he could team with The Road Warriors. They would be unbeatable.

BEN ZANKS  
Ellington, CT

## COME ON DOWN

An open letter to Scott McGhee:

Please come back to Florida. The Florida wrestling scene has not been the same without you, and besides,

(Continued on page 50)

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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)



Scott McGhee applies an armbar on John Heffernan during a 1983 match in Miami. Mary Robinson feels Scott would help his career by returning to Florida.

the WWF has not been treating you very well and not giving you the status that you highly deserve.

If you come back to Florida, not only will you win the Florida or Southern title, you'll even become the NWA World champion. You'll never get that chance in the WWF.

MARY ROBINSON  
Jacksonville, FL

## ROCKIN' THE UWF

I'm writing this letter to make a point about a comment Missy Bob Kimpkins made in her letter "More Rock 'n' Roll" (January 1986). She said the Mid-South (now UWF) tag team belts were "Daffy Duck" titles. You couldn't be further from the truth!

Sure they're not the NWA or AWA belts, but you've got to consider this: Would The Rock 'n' Roll Express try so hard to defend a tag team title that didn't mean a lot to them? I'm sure if they still had the Mid-South belts, they wouldn't appreciate it too much if their belts were called "Daffy Duck."

I'm a great fan of The Rock 'n' Roll Express, but I'm also a loyal fan to the Mid-South. Remember this, and I quote Rick Morton from a recent interview with Jim Ross: "We go out all over the world, but sooner or later our

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The Rock 'n' Roll Express have never had a bad word to say about the Mid-South. Reader Lisa Morrow can't understand why one of their fans would.

hearts bring us back to the Mid-South area where the toughest tag teams are."

LISA MORROW  
Monroe, AR ☐

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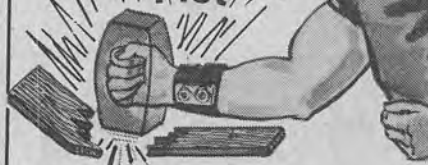
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## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)



At this moment, Dick Slater is without both the North American title belt and his valet, Dark Journey. He plans to have them both back soon.

Very much fun, but the wool sometimes gets caught between the teeth. Soon, we go back to New Zealand, but not before we smash all you American trash and take all your money. Hahaha! Wouldn't that be funny? And soon, we come Syracuse smash you. We not idiots. You is an idiot for calling us that. You in big trouble."

\*\*\*

Q: "My question is for Dick Slater. What happened to Dark Journey? Did she leave you for a better man? If you're thinking you can gain the North American title from Jim Duggan, you haven't got a chance."—Rickey Harris, Ft. Gibson, OK

A: "Mr. Harris—if I can call you mister—you don't know very much," Slater said. "There are

women, and there is Dark Journey. Dark Journey is in the midst of her own journey right now. It takes a special woman to appreciate the finer points of a man like me, and Dark Journey is that special woman. She did not leave me, she left wrestling to take care of some personal business. But she will be back by my side where she belongs, I promise you that. As for Duggan, I am planning on regaining the North American title. It's only a matter of time. A very short time. Because right now, Duggan's days as champion are numbered, and that number keeps on getting smaller and smaller and smaller. Enjoy the perks of championship life while you can, Duggan, because they'll soon be gone from your life forever."



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## HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

known to be the best in the country, if not the world; well, it's just gotten a hell of a lot better, brother!"

A feud between **Roddy Piper** and **Cowboy Bob Orton**? Perhaps. At least that's what seems to be in the future for the noted grappler and his bodyguard following a recent installment of "Piper's Pit" in which Roddy interviewed **King Kong Bundy** and **John Studd** about how they would handle **Andre the Giant**. When Piper asked Studd how he would slam Andre, Studd went to demonstrate on Piper—but Piper instructed Studd to lift Orton in the air instead. Then when Piper asked Bundy how he would avalanche Andre, Piper again asked Orton to be the unwilling victim. "The Pit" ended with Orton on the floor, looking scared; he wasn't the victim of either hold, but he was the victim of Piper's whims, and by the dirty looks he gave Roddy, Orton wasn't pleased about it one little bit.

**Billy Jack Haynes** has delighted the Pacific Northwest fans by capturing the PNW heavyweight title from **Bobby Jagers** in Portland, Oregon. "Not only is it good to be home in Oregon," Haynes told us, "it's good to be home and be champion for all the fans here where I made my start. Believe me when I say this is one of the sweetest victories of my career."

**Steve Regal** should be in the World Championship area by the time you read this. Speculations are that he will re-form his AWA World championship tag team pairing with **Jim Garvin** ... **Lance Von Erich** captured the World Class television title from **Freebird Buddy Roberts** ... **Gen. Skandor Akbar** has been appearing at ring-side during many UWF matches. The General tells us that he's scouting for new talent.

It's a shame that only wrestlers



are considered for rankings in our "Most Hated" ratings, because if managers were eligible, I'm sure **Jim Cornette** would be ranked number one. I was shocked and disgusted by what I saw on a recent installment of *World Championship Wrestling* aired over SuperStation WTBS. Cornette, with the aid of **The Midnight Express**, jammed the handle of his tennis racket into **Baby Doll's** abdomen (while **Dusty Rhodes** was

give a damn about the belts, it's vengeance time, and America's Team has declared war! What we do to you is gonna make the bombing raid on Libya seem like a tea party, jack!"

**Riki Chosu** captured **Stan Hansen's** Pacific Wrestling Federation title in Yokohama, Japan. That leaves Hansen with two titles now: his AWA World belt, and the PWF tag title he hold with **Ted DiBiase** ... Another woman in the World



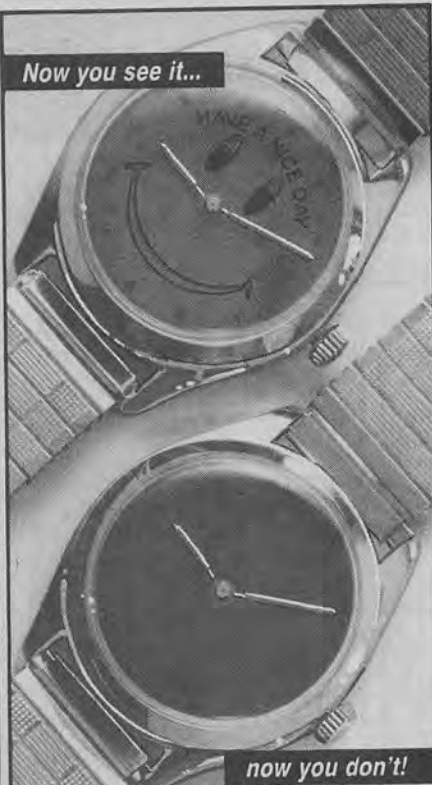
Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express seriously injured Baby Doll with Cornette's tennis racket. Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. have sworn revenge.

held and forced to watch), sending her to the hospital and keeping her away from ringside and Rhodes' side for several weeks. "I can't believe that even Cornette would stoop so low," Rhodes told me recently. "Let me tell you something, Baby Doll was afraid, daddy. Until doctors checked her out thoroughly, she had some fears that she would never ever be able to have children. She'll be okay, but it was a close call. Jimmy Cornette, beware! **Magnum T.A.** and me are after your skinny butt, and the Express, too. We don't

Class area? Don't be surprised. We hear that **Missy Hyatt's** sister, **Cheryl Hyatt**, of Atlanta, is very upset about the way her sister has been acting lately. **Sunshine**, meanwhile, has not denied that she has been in contact with Cheryl ... **Warren Bockwinkel**, the father of three-time AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel**, died at the age of 82. Warren was a top wrestler in the 1930s and '40s. Our condolences to his family and friends.

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## CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

fist blows. Taylor dominated the match at the outset, dropkicking Slater and applying a headlock. But Slater managed to put a foot outside the ropes and the referee broke the hold.

Gilbert got involved in a collision between the two wrestlers, was knocked unconscious, and didn't see Slater throw Taylor out of the ring. Slater then body-slammed Taylor on the floor, dragged him back into the ring, and moved in for the pin as Gilbert regained consciousness. Gilbert began to count out Taylor, but a second referee, Carl Fergie, climbed into the ring and stopped the count. He then informed Gilbert that Slater threw Taylor over the top rope and Slater was disqualified.

In other bouts: Jim Duggan defeated Buzz Sawyer in an "I Quit" match ... The Shepherders beat Dave Peterson and Brett Wayne Sawyer ... The Blade Runners defeated Sean O'Reilly and Steve Doll ... Koko Ware beat Tarras Bulba ... Kortsia Korchenko defeated Tracey Smothers ... Rick Steiner pinned Perry Jackson ... Ricky Gibson beat Gustavo Mendoza.

**Niagara Falls, NY (Correspondent—James Henry):** The Road Warriors took on Ivan and Nikita Koloff in the NWA portion of a Pro Wrestling USA card. As could be expected when these two magnificent teams battle, the action went beyond the limits of standard wrestling maneuvers.

After removing their spikes, Animal and Hawk went for Ivan Koloff. Animal delivered a bone-crunching powerslam to Ivan and tagged in Hawk. But as so often happens, the tide began to turn and the Koloffs took advantage of the match. Hawk appeared to be





In yet another incident involving the over-the-top rope rule, Scott Hall and Curt Hennig were fortunate not to be disqualified when the referee failed to see Hennig dropkick Boris Zukhov out of the ring. Zukhov (grabbing Hall's head) and The Barbarian would later be disqualified for an unrelated offense.

in danger of losing the match, but collided with Nikita after a double clothesline. Both were groggy and the Koloofs, sensing defeat, brought their chains into the ring. This resulted in the disqualification of Nikita and Ivan, and The Road Warriors proceeded to steal the chains and punish the Koloofs.

In other bouts: Larry Zbyszko defeated Nick Bockwinkel ... Sgt. Slaughter, The Destroyer and Scott Hall beat The Long Riders and Nord the Barbarian ... Rick Martel pinned Boris Zukhov.

**Las Vegas, NV (Correspondent—Cathy Norton):** The AWA came to the Showboat Sports Pavilion for a full card of wrestling, highlighted by Nord the Barbarian and Boris Zukhov challenging for the AWA World tag team title held by Scott Hall and Curt Hennig.

Hall managed to hold his own in repeated tests of strength against The Barbarian, but the momentum changed when Hennig stepped into the ring. The Barbarian took over, repeatedly

smashing Hennig's head into his Conan-like boot. The match went on in this fashion with both teams tagging well. Hennig had The Barbarian on the defense and dropkicked him over the top rope. However, the referee didn't see this and Hennig avoided disqualification. At another time when Hennig and Hall had regained their momentum, the timekeeper mistakenly rang the bell. This confused the two teams, and Hennig and Hall lost their advantage.

Finally, however, Zukhov and the Barbarian were the victims of a referee's decision. Boris jumped off the top rope and clotheslined Hennig while the Barbarian held him. Zukhov and the Barbarian were disqualified, and Hennig and Hall held on to the tag team title.

In other bouts: Buddy Rose pinned Jesse Hernandez ... Bruiser Brody defeated Magic ... Col. DeBeers beat Bill Anderson ... Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels, also known as The Midnight Rockers, pinned Alex Knight and Hans DeHass. □

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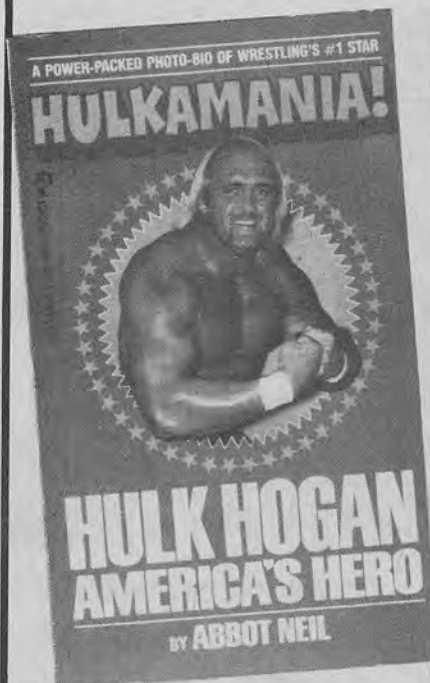
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## DUGGAN

(Continued from page 33)



Applying an arm and shoulderlock, Slater makes sure he rubs Duggan's face into the mat (above). Hacksaw puts Slater on his back with a forearm to the forehead (below).

title. We all know the outcome. Duggan defeated Sawyer for the North American championship and, through a quirk of wrestling legalese, which only the most gifted lawyers and wrestling minds can understand, Sawyer lost a title he didn't even have, and Slater, without having stepped into the ring, wound up with nothing.

This left Slater furious, Sawyer embarrassed. And Duggan unconvinced. He knew that his title was tainted. To be a champion, you have to beat the champion. Duggan didn't beat the champion. The North American title would be meaningless until he defeated Dick Slater. Call him Hacksaw Jim Duggan, the Kansas City Royals of professional wrestling.

Although his title victory was legal, he didn't feel he had earned the title until he defeated Dick Slater in Little Rock, Arkansas. Now, the North American title belt, undeniably, belongs to Hacksaw Duggan.

"I knew I was the best man," Duggan says, "but I also knew that I hadn't shown it by beating the champion. This was something I had to prove to myself. To be hon-



est, I wasn't sleeping nights. I'd look at that belt and say to myself, 'It really isn't yours yet. It really isn't yours yet.' I had dreams about pinning Slater and holding the belt over my head while the fans went crazy. Beating Dick Slater is one of my greatest victories."

Slater, of course, is still reeling from the confusing events. His lawyers are still scratching their heads over the unusual series of legal turns that caused Slater to lose

(Continued on page 62)



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**December 1984/Cover stories:** Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

**January 1985/Cover stories:** Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA.

**February 1985/Cover stories:** Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts. PLUS: Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

**March 1985/Cover story:** Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

**April 1985/Cover stories:** Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

**May 1985/Cover stories:** Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

**June 1985/Cover story:** Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

**July 1985/Cover stories:** Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

**August 1985/Cover stories:** Flair vs. Nikita. PLUS: Orndorff, Slaughter, Haynes, Parade of Champions II.

**September 1985/Cover stories:** Adams vs. Von Erich, Orndorff. PLUS: Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta action.

**October 1985/Cover stories:** Martel vs. Hayes, Richter. PLUS: Savage, Adams, Magnum T.A., Road Warriors.

**November 1985/Cover stories:** Freebirds vs. Warriors, Mid-South action. PLUS: Billy Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

**December 1985/Cover stories:** Hogan, Zbyszko vs. Martel. PLUS: Youngblood, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

**January 1986/Cover stories:** Abdullah, Randy Savage vs. Tito Santana, Humongous. PLUS: Baron Von Raschke, Terry Taylor, Night in Comiskey Park.

**February 1986/Cover stories:** Junkyard Dog, 1986 Datebook. PLUS: Nick Patrick, Jim Garvin, Butch Reed.

**March 1986/Cover stories:** Starrcade '85 with Rhodes vs. Flair, The Russians vs. Rock 'n' Rolls, Tully vs. Magnum. PLUS: Jesse Ventura, Maha Singh, Sunshine.

**April 1986/Cover stories:** 1985 The Year in Pictures, Rick Martel & Stan Hansen, Kevin Sullivan & Maha Singh. PLUS: Hulk Hogan, Ted DiBiase.

**May 1986/Cover stories:** Rock and Rolls, Missy Hyatt vs. Sunshine, Bruno Sammartino's back. PLUS: 10 Devastating Holds.

**June 1986/Cover stories:** Hulk Hogan, Fabulous Freebirds, Midnight Express, PLUS: Battle of Belts II and Terry Taylor.

**July 1986/Cover stories:** Paul Orndorff, Great Matches of '80s, Tully Blanchard, and The Shepherders. PLUS: Nick Bockwinkel, British Bulldogs.

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## DUGGAN

(Continued from page 58)

both his titles. Did Watts have the right to let Duggan and Sawyer wrestle for the North American title? Didn't that mean that Slater should have kept his TV title? Litigation is still pending, but it appears as if Slater's case is hopeless, especially after losing to Duggan.

"I was robbed, plain and simple," says Slater. "That low rat Watts robbed me. How can he be allowed to be President of the UWF? He saw the opportunity to get both titles from me and took it. Well, I'm not going to let this end without a fight. Duggan beat me, but I wasn't mentally prepared. I've been very busy talking to lawyers, so I didn't have time to train. But let me tell you this. I will regain the North American title, which I never really lost in the first place."

Watts apologized to the fans for "lowering himself to Slater's level" but feels vindicated by Duggan's victory over Slater. "As President of the UWF, I have a responsibility to make sure that the best men are holding our very valuable titles," said Watts. "By refusing to fill out that contract, Slater indicated to me that he was no longer interested in being champion. I think the fact that Duggan defeated Slater proves that Slater has lost the drive and ability it takes to be a champion."

Needless to say, Watts is very pleased with the new North American title and so are the fans. But most important, Hacksaw Jim Duggan has self-respect.

"This country has been built on pride and the work ethic," Duggan says, "and I've always tried to use that as an example. Everything I do is based on hard work and I was confident that the North American championship was only a matter of time. I'm proud of myself. I can honestly say that."

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## ROAD WARRIORS

(Continued from page 41)



Condrey rips into Animal's face from behind in the corner (above). Eaton jabs his fingers into Animal's throat (right). Can The Road Warriors beat The Midnight Express? Paul Ellering probably won't admit it until it happens.

sound of a boot, a Road Warrior boot, colliding with a trash can.

"Goddamn it, we had it! We had it in our hands! That *\*expletive\** Cornette is the cause of all this! *\*Expletive\** Paul, can't you handle *\*expletive\** Cornette at ringside? What the hell are we . . ."

The voice was Hawk's, and Ellering was quick to interrupt.

"Just shut up a minute, Hawk. You too, Animal."

"Yeah, go ahead, tell us," Animal growled. "Tell us all about Cornette."

"I don't have to tell you a damn thing," Ellering countered. "First of all, Cornette was in there three times with his racket, sure. But I also prevented him from four other interferences. I ran my butt off around that ring. But look: You guys knew that it was going to be tantamount to a three-on-one when we decided to go for the NWA belts. But maybe this match, and last week's match in The Omni, maybe this is all the proof we need. Maybe you guys can't hack it. Maybe the Road Warriors *can't* beat The Midnight Express. Maybe you don't have what it takes. You want to go

back to the AWA and concentrate on [AWA World tag champs Curt] Hennig and [Scott] Hall?"

"I'd rather go home and kiss my dog in the butt!" Animal snarled.

"Look, Paul, we don't have to take . . ."

Hawk was interrupted by Ellering. "You guys just think about it. I'm gone."

I quickly, and as quietly as I could, moved away from the door, but I only



got a few steps down the hallway when Ellering burst out of the dressing room, slamming the door behind him.

Paul glared at me, but he didn't say a word. I was frozen in my footsteps, and I couldn't have said a word if I wanted to. Our eyes were locked for what seemed like five minutes. Then Paul glanced toward the dressing room door, looked back at me, and shot me a knowing wink. As he slung his gym bag over his shoulder, he smiled, turned, and walked away from me toward one of the other exits.

For an instant, I was back in college—Psychology 101—and something about anger and aggression as motivating forces. My mind returned to Philadelphia, and I noticed that Ellering was already gone. I smiled, too, and went out into the night to look for my car. □



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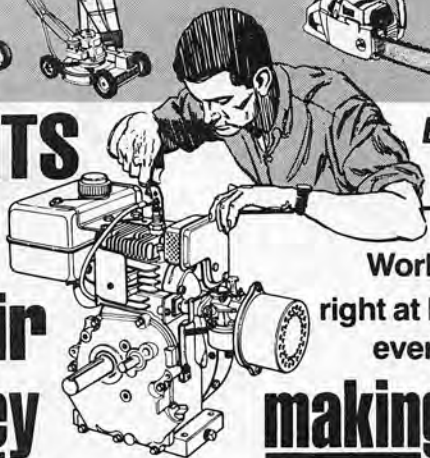
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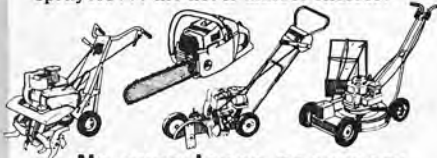
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